

# THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL

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## The Canadian Mining Journal

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Mr. E. H. Hamilton, who for some time had been metallurgical manager for the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada, at its smelting works and refineries at Trail, B.C., has left British Columbia, and is now with the United States Smelting Co. at Midvale, Utah.

Mr. J. B. Tyrrell has left for northern British Columbia, where he expects to spend a few weeks.

Major R. W. Brock is president of the Canadian Soldiers' College at Seaforth, Sussex, England. Major Davis is head of the Department of Engineering.

Mr. E. B. Schley, of New York City, has succeeded his father, the late Mr. Grant B. Schley, as president of the company operating the Britannia mines and concentrating plants near Britannia Beach, Vancouver mining division of Howe Sound, British Columbia.

Mr. Harold Grant is in charge of development work being done on some copper claims at Sooke, Victoria mining division of British Columbia, Vancouver Island. The property is being explored for the Ladysmith Smelting Corporation, under an option of purchase.

### FUEL AND POWER.

Fuel and power production and consumption are matters that Canadian mining and metallurgical companies are much interested in at all times. Naturally the present shortage has intensified the efforts to increase production and led to much discussion of ways and means. Among the probable results are: considerable increase in use of Canadian coal in the west; greater development of water powers; testing of peat possibilities in Ontario and briquetting of lignites in Saskatchewan. The much to be desired increase in production of coal in Nova Scotia seems far away, owing chiefly to labor shortage.

Coal mining is a big industry in Nova Scotia, Alberta and British Columbia. Power production is an important subsidiary enterprise of several metal mining and metallurgical companies. Power consumption is a failing common to all and so those companies not interested as producers are interested as consumers.

According to figures published by the Department of Mines, Canada produced 14,015,588 tons of marketable coal in 1917. We exported 1,733,156 tons and imported 20,857,460 tons.

Most of the coal imported is consumed in Central Canada, which has no coal; but is close to the Pennsylvania fields. We should, and probably will later, use water power for many of the purposes for which this imported coal is put, but it would be difficult for Central Canada to get along with less coal for heating purposes than was imported last year.

In Western Canada there is an opportunity to at once cut down our imports somewhat by utilizing Western coal more extensively. Alberta mines could supply a much larger amount than they have been able to find a market for in Canada, owing to competition from imported coal and unfavorable freight rates.

The situation in the East is very discouraging. There we have plenty of coal and yet we find that the production is decreasing instead of increasing. Lack of transportation facilities long ago prevented the Nova Scotia companies from sending the normal supply to St. Lawrence ports. The labor shortage, due to the great numbers of miners enlisting, has made it impossible to obtain the desired output.

As has been pointed out many times, it would be easily possible to mine in Alberta sufficient coal to meet all the needs of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, if it should prove impossible to import the customary amounts from the United States. Last year less than 5,000,000 tons was produced by Alberta mines that could produce about 8,000,000 tons. Owing to lack of market, it is at present impossible to keep the mines in operation continuously throughout the year, although they are sufficiently developed to make much larger outputs and men are available.