## THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL

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## The Canadian Mining Journal

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It may confidently be expected that the larger market for Alberta coal which has resulted from the scarcity of American coal will be held after the war. At present the freight rates prevent Alberta coal from being sold cheaply in Manitoba; but it is reasonable to expect that some adjustment will be made when conditions permit. In the meantime, Canadians will become acquainted with the fact that Alberta coal has not been utilized to the extent that it should.

During the month of May a technical clerk was temporarily required in the Topographical Surveys Branch of the Department of the Interior at a salary at the rate of \$1,300 per annum, and it is stated that "applications will be considered from graduates in Applied Science, honor mathematics, or physics, of some recognized university." Qualified draughtsmen, competent to perform engineering and architectural work are offered \$125 per month. By way of contrast, a "motion-picture camera man" required by the Department of Trade and Commerce is to be given an initial salary of \$2,400 per annum, and a law clerk to an initial salary of \$2,100.

## BREAKING THE GERMAN METAL TRUST.

The announcement that the Alien Enemy Property Custodian of the United States has taken over the German metal firms of L. Vogelstein & Co., and Beer, Sondheimer & Co., Inc., may be taken as an indication that the German metal trust is going to fare badly in America in the future. The Germans had, when war broke out, a very strong hold on the metal markets of the world and they displayed considerable ability in keeping control during the war. The impression here has been that the British and Canadian Governments have not handled the metal business in a way to excite much admiration. Our Australian friends showed some time ago that they intended to free themselves of German control of metals and now that the United States authorities have taken action, we may reasonably expect that the governments of all the countries allied against Germany will seriously consider plans for completely breaking the German control of metals. By united action of the allies, the Germans should for all time be prevented from obtaining a controlling interest in the metal business in any country but their own.

Of special interest to Canadians is the announcement concerning Beer, Sondheimer & Co., Inc., successors to the American branch of a German firm which at the opening of the war was agent for the Minerals Separation Company. The behavior of this firm has been such that it would be difficult to consider it other than a dangerous enemy. Naturally the Minerals Separation corporations which were associated with Beer, Sondheimer & Co., have been also under a cloud of suspicion. Up to date, however, there has been no disclosure of evidence which would indicate that the Minerals Separation American Corporation is controlled by Germans and so long as the Alien Enemy Property Custodian of the United States is satisfied we can only assume that the Minerals Separation companies are in safe hands. The question of the status of the American corporation is one that has no doubt received the attention of the American authorities. Some time ago we asked that an explanation be given of the connection between Beer, Sondheimer & Co., and the Minerals Separation companies. The replies have been more or less satisfactory insofar as they showed that the Governments interested were cognizant of the facts and were satisfied. These replies have, however, not removed the suspicion that some Government officers are too easily satisfied and it is a pleasure to note that the American government, which has at its command the services of many leaders of the metal industry, is now exterminating vermin at a rapid rate. There has been a great deal of damage done by these German metal firms in all the countries fighting against Germany. The peculiar behavior of British and Canadian