

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Some of the newspapers published on Vancouver Island were at the end of January publishing divergent views concerning the position in Island coal mines in relation to the employment of alien enemies in the mines. A news despatch from Victoria stated "that acting upon information which he has received from several up-Island mining centres, to the effect that a number of Austrians and other alien enemies who had been interned in the Morrissey (Crownsnest district) camp and elsewhere, have lately been released and are now working in the mines of Vancouver Island, the Hon. Wm. Sloan, Minister of Mines, has instructed Mr. Thos. Graham, Chief Inspector of Mines, to make a thorough investigation into the matter. While realizing that both the interment and subsequent release of these men are in the hands primarily of the Dominion Government, the Minister of Mines is determined that as long, at least, as he controls the Provincial Department of Mines, this province shall not be made a dumping ground for alien enemies at the cost of depriving loyal subjects of the Empire of a means of livelihood. Under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, the Minister has full power to control the labor situation in the mines, and he is firmly resolved that any such practice as the sending of alien enemies from internment camps to work in mines must be abolished."

Of two newspapers published at Nanaimo, one, in the course of a long editorial says: "We hope that the action which the Hon. the Minister of Mines is taking in ordering his Chief Inspector to investigate the matter very thoroughly may have the desired effect of ridding Nanaimo of the alien incubus which at the present time is threatening to choke it. Such a riddance will, if it is accomplished, without doubt have the effect of temporarily reducing the output of the mines, but this, while no doubt it would be annoying to the American shareholders, who it must not be forgotten are also aliens, would be far more preferable in the long run and less inimicable to the true welfare of the city, than the present high rate of production, maintained by such thoroughly undesirable population." Dealing with another aspect of the question, this editorial concludes as follows: "A coal famine is pressing hardly upon the industries of many parts of Canada to-day, and yet the fuel that would make the continuance of those industries possible, is withheld from them and shipped by the thousands of tons to foreign parts. If the Dominion Government is really sincere in its campaign for national service and conservation, it should take steps to see that Canadian industries are adequately supplied with Canadian fuel before a ton of the latter is allowed to be exported."

The other Nanaimo newspaper, after remarking that it is unfortunate that with certain newspapers prejudice and not reason should be made the court of appeal says further: "There is one point on which there is general agreement. This is that there should be no employment in Canada for alien enemies. . . . We have tried to interest American capitalists in Canadian industries and vice versa. Whether we go to the other side or Americans come to this side, we are all under the law. It might suit some insular British prejudices to build a wall between Canada and the United States, but it certainly would not benefit Canada. For the rest there is nothing to be gained by mis-

representing the local situation. If there is such a thing as a coal famine pressing hardly upon Canadian industries it can hardly be located within striking distance of the Island mines. Such Canadian industries as came within the field of the Island mines got clear of coal famines for all time by putting in oil fuel burners. Then as to output—it is just as well to mix sense with your heroics. No true Canadian, with patriotic instincts, wants to see employment given to enemy aliens. At the same time he does not want any unreasonable interference with the operation of the mines. The better the mines work, and the bigger their output, the better it will be for this city and all in it. There may be something in the idea of conserving the local coal resources. If the town and those in it can stand for it, no doubt the operating company can. The Government would probably have little difficulty in making the deal, whatever happened to the rest of us. Meantime it may be said that during the regime of the Western Fuel Company, Nanaimo has been fairly prosperous. The company has paid better wages and given better conditions than its competitors even if they are British. And so far from exporting coal by the thousands of tons to foreign parts in the present crisis it has leased the ships it had chartered to help out the situation. For these reasons and perhaps because it has no German shareholders and has not thrown a few hundred Orientals into its mines, it is always first choice with a certain class of critics."

WEST KOOTENAY.

Slocan.—The finding of new orebodies in several Slocan mines is reported. A new shoot of silver-lead ore has been found on the fifth level of the Rambler-Cariboo mine, and ore containing zinc has been opened on the thirteenth level. Another body of ore has been entered in the lowest level of the Galena Farm mine near Silverton. On the 100 ft. level in this mine there was ore in the drift for about 300 ft.; it ranged in width up to 22 ft., and averaged between 8 and 9 feet.

Nelson.—On the Celebration group, La France Creek which is on the eastern side of Kootenay lake, silver-lead ore 18 inches in width has been found at a depth of 50 ft. At the Granite-Poorman group of mines, the cross-cut being driven to open the Hardscrabble vein at 100 ft. greater depth is thought to be nearing the vein, which in the shaft sunk on that claim nearly two years ago well maintained its width, and the gold value in its ore down to a depth of more than 100 ft.

Rossland.—Shipment to Trail of ore from Rossland mines is being continued but the outlook is not promising at present owing to the stoppage of coke shipments to the smeltery from Crownsnest collieries. The report of the Le Roi No. 2, Limited, for November shows that its Josie mine shipped 1,505 tons of ore. Receipts were 19,863 and all expenditures totalled \$8,350.

OMINECA AND SKEENA.

The Omineca Herald states that at the Rocher De-boule copper mine, the adit at about 2,000 ft. from its portal entered a vein, known as the middle, or No. 3 vein, which had previously been uncovered at the surface. Where cut by the adit the vein is strong, but there is only a little ore there and that of a milling grade. Drifting on the vein will be undertaken in February. Good progress is being made in raising on No. 2 vein.