

The British born immigrant will not adapt himself to the conditions of a common laborer, nor will he accept the conditions of living and the rate and hours of wages which have been common among "foreign" labor in mining camps—or at least were common before the war. It is not necessary to point out the changes in mine operation and in the costs of mining which must follow a reversal of labor supply such as is herein indicated. In short, common labor is to-day decidedly scarce, but it would look as if it were going to be much scarcer after peace has been arranged and demobilization has taken place.

It may be anticipated that the necessity will bring forward some remedies, and one direction in which advances may be expected is a more extended use of mechanical appliances in mining operations. Hard manual labor will in the future be much more at a discount than it is to-day, and if men can achieve results by the substitution of machinery is it not progress? Mine managers and the directors of large mining operations will be well advised to investigate every possible method of substituting mechanical devices for manual labor. It is not altogether that **cheap** manual labor is a disappearing thing. It is the actual labor supply itself that is diminishing and promises still more to diminish.

The effect of after-war conditions on coal mining in Canada would seem to be the most important of all.

Coal, as the world is now realizing, is the basic factor in industry and civilization. Shortage of coal supply, or excessively costly coal, will throttle and depress all other industry. As everybody knows, the man-power at Canadian collieries is to-day so reduced that proper outputs are not possible. But what is more serious, there appears to be no source from which the man power at the coal mines can be replenished, either during the war, or after. Only a small proportion of those miners who went to the front will return to work in the collieries. A great many are dead, many others are so wounded that they will not be able to take up coal mining again, but a far greater number will seek other avenues of employment. Notwithstanding the short hours and the comparatively large wages earned by underground workers, it is not popular employment, nor is it employment that is being followed by the sons of miners. Canada offers too many varieties of endeavor to favor the formation of a mining class—almost a caste—such as is to be found in Great Britain and in the coal fields of Europe. It has for many years been increasingly evident in Nova Scotia that the only source of labor supply for the collieries is Europe, and if that is cut off, production must decline.

Apart from the suicidal policy of curtailing coal production in war times, this feature of the Nova Scotian coal industry is one which would have advised the retention of the coal-miners in the industry. Fewer more flagrant examples of dissipation of war effort have occurred than the hand-picked enlistment of Nova Scotian miners, but the consequences of the mistake in recruiting which occurred in Nova Scotia will extend far beyond the period of the war, and will for years to come be a deterrent to the progress of the Province. No reflection is here intended upon the miners, hundreds of whom have died for their country. Braver men never stood in shoe leather than the colliers of Nova Scotia, but they would have been of far more service to the cause had those who directed the affairs of Canada counselled and allowed them to remain at home and dig coal.

To sum up the foregoing; if our reasoning is approximately correct, it would seem as if the after war possibilities in Canada will include a decided shortage of "common" or "foreign" labor, an influx of British born to whom laboring work will not appeal, accompanied by a continuation of a demand for coal which will be greater than the available labor supply will make it possible to

produce. Prophecy is not a pursuit to be recommended or indulged in in times when almost every prediction made has been falsified by events, but intelligent anticipation of the future may prove of profit if it enables us to prepare solutions of the problems of the future. Students of reconstruction after the war are invited to give consideration to the possibilities mentioned above, and some actual enquiry of sources which are in touch with immigration matters might prove useful to those who employ large bodies of men in mining operations.

BRITISH COLUMBIA MINES DEPARTMENT WILL PROSPECT CLAIMS.

The Snowstorm Group, which comprises five highly mineralized copper-silver-gold claims situated in Highland Valley, Yale District, will be prospected by the Provincial Department of Mines by diamond drilling under the terms of the Mineral Survey and Development Act.

Announcement to this effect has been made by Hon. Wm. Sloan, Minister of Mines, and tenders are being invited for 10,000 lineal feet of drilling, more or less, thus allowing ample margin for the definite proving, or otherwise, of the ore body which, it is generally believed, exists.

Before deciding on this step Mr. Sloan has had the property inspected and reported upon by the best engineering authority. Among those who have expressed the opinion that the Snowstorm Group is a good prospect and likely to prove a valuable asset to the Province, with further development are R. W. Thomson and P. B. Freeland, resident engineers with headquarters respectively at Kamloops and Grand Forks. Their views are supported by Mr. Wm. Brewer, now resident engineer, Nanaimo, B.C., whose report on this property appears in the 1915 report of the British Columbia Minister of Mines and the late Dr. C. W. Drysdale, formerly of the Geological Survey Branch, Ottawa, who did considerable survey work in this Province, and who held a very favorable opinion of the mineral zone in which the claims in question are situated.

Mr. Brewer, in 1915, states that, after an examination of the Highland Valley Camp, his conclusions were that "while there is considerable tonnage of high grade bornite and chalcocite copper ore on several of the mineral claims, yet that the future growth and prosperity of the camp will eventually centre around the apparently extensive bodies of low grade copper ore. To systematically and thoroughly prospect and develop these deposits, diamond-drill boring would appear to offer more advantages than the slower and more expensive method of opening up the mineral-bearing zones by working openings."

It is Mr. Sloan's hope that the diamond drill which he has authorized will result in proving a large and rich mineral area which has been lying idle for years, and that the direct outcome will be an important addition to the shipping mines of British Columbia.

Asked whether any action had been taken by the Department of Mines towards the diamond drilling of any of the iron ore deposits of the Province, Mr. Sloan said that he expected to be in a position shortly to call for tenders for the drilling of one or more such properties.

The West Kootenay Power & Light Co., of British Columbia, has ordered 800,000 lb. of copper cable and other material from manufacturers in Hamilton, Ont. This is sufficient for 300 miles of line and will be used chiefly in extending the circuit from Greenwood, B.C., to Copper Mountain, to furnish power for the operations of the B. C. Copper Mining Co. at that point. This work, it is stated, will be completed by July, 1919.