

per, and the cost of treatment lower than in previous months.

This improvement in yield and costs must be especially pleasing to Prof. Geo. Guess, head of the department of metallurgy of the University of Toronto, who has been for some time at Anyox in the capacity of consulting metallurgist. We congratulate him on his success.

CANADIAN MINING SOCIETIES

There are in Canada two important mining societies: The Canadian Mining Institute, with numerous branches throughout the Dominion, and the Mining Society of Nova Scotia. The latter is, as its name implies, a Provincial Society, confining its interest largely to Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia is and has been for years an important mineral producing Province. In Cape Breton occur the greatest coal deposits in Canada. The Province owes to the mining industry no small part of its development. Mining began early in the history of Nova Scotia, and has continued with marked success. Gold mining was for some years actively carried on; though it has of late years received little attention. The number of men engaged in the mining industry resulted naturally in a desire for a society devoted to the interests of mining and allied industries. And so the Mining Society of Nova Scotia came into existence.

In the other Provinces, notably in British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec, mining is also one of the leading industries. But these Provinces have no Mining Societies. Instead the mining men have banded together to form the Canadian Mining Institute. Why, then, should Nova Scotia stay out?

The reasons seem to be many. The chief seems to be that the Society is an old one and wishes to retain its identity. Attempts have frequently been made to sound the members on their willingness to have their Society merged into the Canadian Mining Institute. This proposition meets with little favor. The Nova Scotians are willing to be closely affiliated; but they cannot be prevailed on to give up their first love.

And so the problem is not an easy one. The Institute and the Society should be on closer terms. But what are the terms that will be satisfactory to both parties?

Recently the officers of the Society have explained to the members the terms offered by the officers of the Institute. We published this explanation in our last issue, and wish to call it to the attention of members of the two institutions.

CONDITIONAL CONTRABAND

During the past month there has been plenty of evidence that Germany is obtaining war supplies from the United States and other countries by the simple expedient of importing through neutral countries.

That the enemy would attempt this was of course expected. The surprising feature is that he seems by devious means to have in several cases succeeded, owing to the difficulty of determining the ultimate destination of cargoes consigned to Holland, Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

That the authorities are on the alert is indicated by the seizure of vessels with cargoes of oil or copper consigned to neutral countries. In one case a copper cargo was diverted en route to Holland and purchased by the British Government. During the past two weeks three ships laden with oil have been taken by the British fleet.

The vessels carrying these cargoes are neutral vessels, and they were, when seized, on their way to neutral ports. That objection to their seizure would be made by the owners was to be expected, and objection has been made. The owners can put up a very plausible story, and it would be difficult for the Allies to prove that Germany is the real buyer of the materials. The British Government is not easily fooled, however, and places the onus of proof on the shipper and the authorities of the neutral countries to which the goods are consigned.

As an instance of the traffic in oil, it is asserted that Denmark merchants have during the past two months been buying enormous quantities, while before the war they were small buyers. The Scandinavian countries also have suddenly become large importers. The significance of this new business is easily understood when it is recalled that Germany is short of oil.

The significance of recent large shipments of copper to Holland is also plain. Naturally, United States producers are not submitting to their loss of the German market without a fight, and they have protested against seizure of cargoes. It has been announced that Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, British Ambassador, and Mr. W. J. Bryan, U. S. Secretary, have agreed to meet the situation by endeavoring to obtain from the Government of Holland official assurance that Holland will not import copper in excess of her own requirements. It will thus be possible to prevent copper reaching the enemy without at the same time interfering with the copper industry in Holland and the trade between that country and the United States.

The safeguarding of all legitimate channels of trade is of importance to the copper mining industry. The Allies are at present fairly large consumers, but with Germany out of the market the price has fallen uncomfortably low, and it is to be expected that companies operating on a small margin will suffer seriously until conditions become normal again.

Production at the copper mines at present is only about one-half normal. The effect of the curtailment is not immediate, however, owing to the fact that several weeks elapse between the time of mining the ore and its shipment from the refineries.