

To coal-mines operated under such conditions of failing extent, five years of time, and that war-time, makes a great difference. It is extremely unlikely that the European coal-mines taken as a whole, can ever again reach pre-war figures of production, and it will be a long long time before the collieries reach the maximum production of which they are capable, which, it may be re-stated will not equal pre-war figures. This condition might as well be faced by those who have the consideration of European coal matters. While lessened hours of labour will doubtless play its part in reducing the coal production of the future, the diminishing productivity of European coal-mines will be a factor less amenable to amelioration than labor efficiency.

No amount of mechanical coal-cutters will help this condition very much, or for any length of time, and it may be further remarked, in fairness to British coal miners and those who direct their work, that coal is being cut in Britain by mechanical cutters in seams so thin and deep that no United States mining engineer would consider the feat possible, unless possibly he also, like the British miner, was driven to mining under such difficult conditions by sheer lack of more easily mined coal. An advertisement in a well-known United States trade periodical refers to a pump installation in the "deepest bituminous coal-mine in the United States" in a shaft 1100 feet deep. The correctness of this figure is not ascertained, but in Britain 1100 feet would be considered a shallow mine, and one of the pressing problems of British coal-mines today is how to mine at great depths under conditions of high temperature.

"Only a greatly increased coal production, and improved organization for its distribution can save Europe from disaster next year," says Mr. Hoover, who further urged that some sort of fuel control be established to bring this about, but declined to accept the post of director of the proposed Commission, stating he believed the problem to be strictly European. In making his statement, Mr. Hoover shows that he realises that European problems must be solved by Europeans, but the thanks of all are due to him for courageously telling some truths about the menacing aspect of the problem of coal supply.

The greatness of the coal necessity of Europe is shown by the statistics collected under Mr. Hoover's direction, which indicate a probable coal output in Europe next year of 443,000,000 tons, against requirements of 614,000,000 tons.

As an exporter of coal, Europe is completely and finally out of the running, which is not the least significant event in these upsetting and world-shaking days.

Admiral Tirpitz says: "The Germans never understood the sea. In the nation's fateful hour the fleet was not used. I can only write the epitaph."

But the British did understand the sea. It is their father and mother too. And the British Navy wrote the German epitaph.

THE IMPERIAL MINERAL RESOURCES BUREAU

The Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau, organized for the collection of information with reference to the mineral resources of all parts of the British Empire, has been incorporated. The Charter granted on June 12th, provides that there shall be representatives of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Newfoundland and India appointed by the several governments. The Secretary of State for the Colonies will represent all other parts of the Empire. There shall also be six other persons who "may from time to time be respectively appointed by the Lord President of Our Council for the time being, and after due consultation by him with all important interests concerned shall be the President and Governors respectively of a body corporate by the name of "The Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau."

The purposes of the Bureau are: (1) to collect, co-ordinate, and disseminate information as to the resources, production, treatment, consumption and requirements of every mineral and metal; (2) to ascertain the scope of existing agencies, with a view ultimately to avoid any unnecessary overlapping that may prevail; (3) to devise means whereby existing agencies can, if necessary, be assisted and improved in the accomplishment of their respective tasks; (4) to supplement these agencies, if necessary, in order to obtain any information not now collected which may be required for the purposes of the Bureau, (5) to advise on the development of the mineral resources of the Empire or of particular parts thereof, in order that such resources may be made available for the purposes of Imperial Defence or Industry or Commerce.

Earl Curzon is the first President of the Bureau. The first Governors are: Sir Richard A. S. Redmayne, K.C.B., Chairman of the Bureau and Representative of the United Kingdom, appointed by the Lord President of the Council; Willet G. Miller, L.L.D., appointed by the Government of Canada; Thomas H. Hamer, appointed by the Government of Australia; William S. Robinson, appointed by the Government of New Zealand; Hon. William P. Schreiner, C.M.G.K.C., appointed by the Government of South Africa; Hon. Edward P. Lord Morris, K.C.M.G., appointed by the Government of Newfoundland; Richard D. Oldham, F.R.S., appointed by the Government of India; John William Evans, D.C., appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the following persons appointed by the President of Council; Westgarth F. Brown, Frederick H. Hatch, Sir Lionel Phillips, Edgar Taylor, Wallace Thorneycroft and Thomas Turner.

The success of the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau will naturally depend upon the men who are its first Governors. In the list of names above are many well known among mining men in Canada. There can be little doubt that if these men meet frequently and do their best to perfect such an organization as is planned they will do great service to the industry and to the Empire.