

have been enough mined and worked to supply our own wants and for exportation, as is done in Sweden and Norway with similar ores, climate and fuel (wood charcoal), as the laws of that country are such that no mining property can remain idle so long as any one desires to work it. In Sweden and Norway if a party owns a mine and is not working it, another party can do so by paying the owner half the profit of the working of the mine, and if he gives it up the owner or any other person can undertake to work it on the same conditions, hence no mining properties remain unworked.

In some European countries, and in some parts of the British Islands, the minerals are owned by the Crown, and at one time, even in Ontario, certain reserves of minerals were made in old deeds, but of recent years this is not the case.

Some may say, that in advocating the State owning the land, you are advocating communistic doctrines, but that is another question altogether; what is desired is for the State to own the minerals, which is British law and custom.

There are at the present time thousands of British and Canadian subjects in the United States mining regions who would take up claims in Canada were the laws such as would induce them to do so, but at the present time there are no free-grant mining claims given and no inducements offered to explorers, prospectors or miners, to locate and develop a claim.

Under the present system 100 acres realizes to the government, say at \$1.00 per acre, \$100; and in ten years the country gets the benefit of the amount expended on that mine in labor, &c., if it is developed and worked, but if not, nothing. Under the system where the government holds the minerals, and gives grants free to miners, or on lease or royalty, the country receives at least \$100 per year for ten years, say \$1,000 less the value of the 100 acres—\$100, leaving a balance of \$900 in favor of the free-grant or lease systems.

Under the lease or royalty system, in ten years the country receives the same as under the free-grant, together with the additional royalty received when the mine is paying, which may be several thousand dollars yearly, and the increased value of public lands.

But it may be asked, from what source will the government