

# The Canadian Engineer

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## COAL AND POWER SHORTAGE

In his paper before the recent annual meeting of the Commission of Conservation, Mr. Arthur V. White, of Toronto, dealt with the power and coal shortage in the province of Ontario in a broad and statesmanlike manner. He showed clearly that the shortage most to be feared is not that due to present exigencies arising out of war conditions, but is the shortage which may persist for many years after the war, due to conditions of home demand which may be more or less beyond the control of the United States government, even with the very best of intentions toward Canada. The shortage of coal in the United States is now becoming marked to such an extent that even the Great White Way, as New York City's Broadway is universally called, is almost dark throughout the night excepting for three hours, from eight to eleven, the United States fuel controller permitting none of the great electric signs to be illuminated for any longer time on account of the coal required to generate the considerable amount of power used by the signs.

The coal problem in Ontario demands the best statesmanship for its permanent solution. The acute shortage of the past two years gives merely an inadequate idea of how much suffering and loss would follow a permanent continuation of the present conditions. This problem is of vital significance to Canada, and its solution will depend largely upon Mr. White, F. A. Gaby, C. A. Magrath, H. G. Acres, James White, R. A. Ross and other engineers who have made a special study of the situation, particularly as related to power problems.

Mr. White has called frequent attention to the problem in articles in the University Magazine, the Toronto Daily

News, the Monetary Times and *The Canadian Engineer*. His article in the University Magazine in 1910, long before any shortage was experienced, showed a clarity of vision and grasp of the details of the situation that, in the light of subsequent events, were almost prophetic. It would be well, therefore, for officials at Ottawa to heed the concluding remarks of Mr. White's latest address:—

"No country can be expected to send out of its borders that which is essential to its own existence. Canadians should appreciate the fact that the United States has been dealing with them generously in the present distressing coal situation. Canada, however, must conserve, against the day of her own need, such resources as are available for barter."

## MORE WAR ORDERS FOR CANADA

Negotiations conducted by the Imperial Munitions Board at Washington have resulted in the placing of a large order for 75-millimetre shells to be produced by Canadian plants for the United States government. From 6,000,000 to 7,500,000 shells, under the arrangement, will be produced in Canada during the first seven months of 1918. The value of these orders is approximately \$40,000,000.

The value of munition orders placed by Great Britain in Canada up to September last was \$925,000,000 and by the end of this year the total will be \$1,000,000,000. The orders from the United States will stimulate still further our industrial and general activities. They will help also to balance the changes made a few months ago by the Imperial Munitions Board in regard to the sizes of shells required by Great Britain. We must not overlook the fact, however, that Britain will continue to purchase vast quantities of our products as long as the war lasts, for war purposes, but only if we give considerable help in financing them. That is one purpose of our recent Victory Loan. As Mr. E. R. Wood, of Toronto, has pointed out in his Victory Loan pamphlet, Britain has always been our best customer. She is our best customer now. She will be one of our best customers in the future.

Britain could sell back to us hundreds of millions of our securities and thus finance her purchases here, but we are unable to buy them back. We can, however, establish credits here, from month to month, by dint of thrift and economy and substantial investment in war loans.

The British food controller, and the grain commission, state: "We require your wheat, your meats, and other food products."

The British minister of munitions has advised: "We want the munitions which you are now supplying; indeed, if you could arrange to do so, we would like to secure an increased, not decreased, supply from Canada."

The British minister of shipping has expressed himself as wanting to arrange for the building and purchase of further ships in Canada in addition to those now under construction.

The admiralty controller has advised: "It would be of great service if arrangements could be made whereby ship's plates could be rolled in Canada."

The chairman of the air board has requisitioned for further training camps, with additional aeroplanes. The aeronautic supply department has made an earnest demand for the production of silver spruce, which will require a somewhat extensive expenditure in the develop-