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## MISMANAGEMENT OF THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY

The demand for coal is at the present time of the most insistent nature, and all the collieries of the Province of Nova Scotia are producing the greatest amount of coal that is possible with the greatly depleted number of workmen that the call to the colors has left at the mines. In comparison with the production of this time last year, outputs show up very well indeed, but as has been previously pointed out, production in the early part of 1915 was at a low ebb.

The treatment given to the coal producers of Nova Scotia by the authorities would lead to the inference that the importance of the coal industry is but little recognized by those who are directing the policy of the country. The old proverb, "Nothing like leather," is no doubt applicable to coal men, as it was to the ancient cobbler, but surely some consideration should be granted to the industry which produces the basic munition of war, the one article without which modern warfare is impossible, the absence of which immobilizes both the men and the guns.

The mining population of Nova Scotia has given about 24 per cent. of its bread-winners to the colors. No other industry has given anything like this proportion. The loss in coal production, reckoning the productive capacity of the men who have enlisted at the low figure of 2½ tons per man per day, will figure out at about 8,700 tons per day, equivalent to 200,000 tons a month, or close to 2,500,000 tons per year. Canada produces but 15,000,000 tons per annum. The unwisdom of allowing the coal production to fall off in this alarming manner should be apparent to the meanest intelligence. Of course, as was to be expected, the reduction of the coal production is being severely felt in Eastern Canada, but the present stringency is a state of plenty compared to what is coming in a few months from now.

The Canadian Government has announced its intention to raise 500,000 men for overseas service out of a population containing approximately 1,300,000 men of military age. Lord Shaughnessy has had the sanity and the courage to point out that this can only be accomplished by drafting women into the occupations now followed by men. The Canadian woman, in case of need, will doubtless be found as willing to take up men's work as the women of Great Britain and France have been, but it has not yet been suggested that women should go underground to work in the mines. Women work on the pitheads in Great Britain and in Europe, but it cannot be too strongly pointed out that the men who have enlisted from among the colliery workmen of Nova Scotia are overwhelmingly under-