

The Commission recommended that development of our mineral resources could be assisted by educating the general mining public in all matters directly concerning the mining of minerals and their preparation for the market. It advised the establishment of additional technical laboratories.

The Commission has undertaken the preparation of an inventory of Canadian minerals required for war purposes. Dr. W. F. Ferrier is in charge of the work of indexing the information obtainable.

As appendices to the report, are published the reports on Steel Scrap Investigations by J. Dix Fraser, Construction and Operation of an Electrolytic Copper Refinery by J. E. McAllister, and Summary of Field Work in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan by W. F. Ferrier.

The U.S. War Industries Board has announced the commandeering of platinum, palladium and iridium and the fixing of prices of \$105, \$135 and \$175 per oz. respectively. Considering that the United States is depending almost altogether on imports of platinum from countries that might dispose of their product to German agents, it is not surprising that our New York contemporary objects to the price fixing mania. We may be permitted, however, to call attention to the fact that it will be necessary for America to depend upon Russia and Columbia for platinum only so long as the present practice of wasting Ontario's platinum and palladium is continued. Much of the wasting has been done in the United States; where mattes from the Sudbury district are refined.

The decision of the Court of Appeals in San Francisco in the case of Minerals Separation vs. Butte & Superior appears to be that the Minerals Separation patents will not apply when over one-half of one per cent. oil is used. Such a decision will be greatly to the advantage of those using the flotation process.

Hopes for the establishment of an iron and steel industry in British Columbia have been brought nearer to realization by recent action on the part of the Provincial and Dominion Governments. British Columbia has offered a bounty of \$3 a ton on pig-iron manufactured in that Province from local ore and \$1.50 a ton for iron from imported ore. The Dominion Government now offers to purchase all pig-iron produced by blast furnaces erected during the next two years.

U.S. Government Sale of Nickel.

Washington, May 21.—President Wilson has issued a proclamation pursuant to the terms of the trading with the enemy act directing the alien property custodian to sell at private sale, with or without public or other advertisement, 279,232 lb. of nickel, the property of Hammar & Co., of Hamburg, Germany, and Stockholm, Sweden, and other enemies unknown. This nickel is now in possession of the American Dock Co., Tompkinsville, Staten Island, N. Y., where it was warehoused some time ago by the owners. Persons interested in the purchase of this nickel can learn further

details concerning the time, place and terms of sale by addressing the alien property custodian, Washington.

GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGES IRON INDUSTRY.

The Government of the Dominion of Canada has decided upon a policy of encouraging new Iron and Steel Industries in Canada by offering to purchase all pig iron produced in the country by all new blast furnaces erected during the next two years. It is understood that it will undertake to accept three years' output and that prices paid will be governed by the market conditions at the time.

As to the effect of this decision on the development of an iron industry in British Columbia, Hon. Wm. Sloan, Minister of Mines, in an interview said that the action undoubtedly was very encouraging. He pointed out, however, that the knowledge of what was to be done was not detailed enough to permit extended comment. For instance it was not stated whether the prices to be offered for British Columbia pig iron would be Western prices or Montreal quotations. If the latter the advantage to the producer would be negligible because of the cost of transportation. He was sure, however, that it was not the intention of the Federal Administration to place the manufacturers of this section under such a disadvantage. The Minister pointed out that the object of the Province in offering the bounties indicated was to encourage the Iron and Steel Industry in its initial stages and, because of this, he felt that, possibly, the Dominion Government might have seen its way clear to render assistance to those undertaking to carry the industry further by the refinement of pig-iron which could be done by the subsidizing of the output of rolling mills. This had been the course adopted by the Dominion in its policy of bounties of some years back, which was largely responsible for the laying of the foundation of the very large Iron and Steel Industry of Nova Scotia.

Mr. Sloan concluded:

"As I have stated, the action taken by the Federal Administration is encouraging. It is a recognition of the resources of British Columbia that is very welcome at present when we are trying to make a start in the building up of this very important basic industry. It undoubtedly will have the effect of lending confidence to those contemplating the investment of capital in the exploitation of the iron deposits of the West; assuring them, as it does, of the practical as well as the sympathetic support of both the Provincial and Dominion Governments."

Two news paragraphs published lately in the Daily Alaskan, of Skagway, Alaska, relating to Atlin, which in recent years has been the most productive placer-gold field in British Columbia, are as follows: "On account of the extremely deep snow this year, it is feared that a number of mines in Atlin camp will be unable to operate this coming season, owing to inability of the mine-owners to get in timber. The depth of snow in the woods is so great that it is utterly impossible to use teams." The second paragraph reads: "On account of the high freight rates and the advanced prices on all kinds of provisions and supplies, also on timber, and the increase in wages incident to the shortage of labor, it is believed that a number of Atlin mines will not be operated this season, nor until the war is over and conditions resume a normal status. Many protests are being made, but it is believed that nothing can be done to alleviate the situation."