

THE MARKET FOR MOLYBDENITE

The Director of the Imperial Institute of the United Kingdom, the Colonies and India, South Kensington, London, S.W., under date of 17th December, 1915, says in a letter to Mr. T. W. Gibson, Deputy Minister of Mines of Ontario:

With reference to the disposal of the molybdenite which is becoming available in Canada, I may say that the British Government has recently taken action with a view to securing supplies of molybdenum ores for munition purposes, and the market for the ores in this country is now under Government control. An official arrangement has been made with regard to Australian supplies and I therefore consulted the Ministry of Munitions as to the procedure which should be adopted with regard to Canada.

I am informed by the Ministry that it has been decided to leave the question of Canadian supplies of molybdenite in the hands of the Dominion Shell Committee at Ottawa (now I believe merged in the new Imperial Munitions Board), who have been notified that the British Government will purchase up to 50 tons of molybdenite ore. The arrangements have been left entirely in the hands of this committee and it is therefore desired that all communications on the subject of Canadian supplies should be addressed to the committee or to the new Munitions Board.

I suggest that this information should be made public in Canada, if this has not been done already, as the Imperial Institute is receiving a considerable number of enquiries from that country with reference to the disposal of molybdenite ores or properties, and is of course still ready to be of any service on this side that may be required.

With reference to the disposal of molybdenite properties, the following persons and firms have applied to the Imperial Institute for information regarding such properties with a view to purchase: Mr. R. Woodburn Kirby, 26 College Street, London, E.C.; The Osram Lamp Works, Ltd., Brook Green, Hammersmith, London, W.; L. LePersonne and Co. (Metal Department), 99 Cannon Street, London, E.C.; Mr. J. C. Stead, 57 Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

Enquirers in Canada might be given these names, but it must be understood that the Imperial Institute cannot assume any responsibility regarding firms and persons mentioned.

The samples of molybdenite concentrates prepared at Orillia by the Orillia Molybdenum Co., which you forwarded, are too small for complete investigation, but the following results of their mineralogical examination may be given. No. 1 consists of coarse flakes and is apparently clean molybdenite. Nos. 2 and 3 consist of smaller flakes (No. 3 being the finest) and contain mica, but the molybdenite largely preponderates in both samples. No. 2 was found to contain about 61½ per cent. of biotite mica (including a little quartz) and a little pyrite. No. 3 contains about 12½ per cent. biotite mica (including a little quartz) and, like No. 2, also included a little pyrite. It would therefore appear that the percentages of molybdenite present in these concentrates are not below the figures which you quoted.

The Ministry of Munitions has asked for information as to the quality of the samples and I am accordingly transmitting these particulars to them.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

Mr. Wm. Alderson, superintendent of the Hollinger gold mine, has resigned.

Mr. Chas. Fergie, of Montreal, has been nominated as vice-president of the Canadian Mining Institute.

Mr. J. A. Dresser, of Montreal, has been nominated as a councillor of the Canadian Mining Institute.

Mr. Duncan Chisholm, of Toronto, has taken an option on the Jamieson claims in Rodd township.

Mr. M. W. Summerhayes has been nominated as a councillor for the Canadian Mining Institute.

Mr. O. E. Le Roy, chief geologist of the Canadian Geological Survey, has obtained a commission in the Seaforth Highlanders.

Mr. E. F. Cartwright, of Alden, N.Y., and Mr. R. W. Cartwright, of Ridgeway, Pa., are at Porcupine.

Mr. H. C. Anchor is in charge of the Dome Extension property at Porcupine, where exploration has been resumed.

Dr. W. G. Miller and Mr. Cyril W. Knight, of Toronto, attended the meeting of the Geological Society of America at Washington, D.C.

Dr. W. G. Miller and Mr. T. W. Gibson, of the Ontario Nickel Commission, are en route to Cuba.

Mr. Geo. T. Holloway, chairman of the Ontario Nickel Commission, is in England.

Mr. J. B. Tyrrell expects to leave shortly for England.

Mr. Geo. B. Church has returned to New York from Juneau, Alaska.

Mr. G. G. S. Lindsey expects to return to Canada in February.

Drs. McCracken, of Worthington, Coutts, of Garson Mine, and Freeman, of Levack, of the Mond Nickel Co.'s medical staff, have enlisted for service overseas in the Army Medical Corps.

Brigadier-General John Carson, honored by his King in being created a Civil Commander of the Bath, is a striking example of the "self-made" man. It is only a few years ago that he was an insurance agent—but a thoroughly aggressive one. His energy and capabilities have placed him where he is to-day. The Brigadier-General is best known as the president of Crown Reserve Mining Co. It was Crown Reserve that gave him his present wealth.

M. Beatty & Sons, Ltd., Welland, have received an order from the Confederation Construction Co., contractors on section 3, Welland Ship Canal, for six electric hoists—for a concrete handling plant.

According to our Newfoundland correspondent this winter promises to be the best mining season that Newfoundland has ever enjoyed. The great iron deposits are to be worked all through the winter on an unprecedented scale. For the first time the five iron mines of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company are all being worked.

In its excellent annual review number issued on January 8, our esteemed contemporary, the Engineering and Mining Journal, of New York, estimates Canada's gold production in 1915 at \$15,875,000 as compared with \$15,925,044 in 1914. As a matter of fact Canada's gold production in 1915, instead of being smaller than in 1914 was nearly \$3,000,000 greater.