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CIRCULATION.

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WESTERN COAL.

Canada is entering upon a new phase of extension. That reciprocity in coal between the United States and the Dominion is a live question, is merely one indication of the growing strength of our country. That it has been discussed at all is due to several causes, principally to the fact that Alberta and British Columbia have practically a monopoly of high-grade coal in the west.

The rapid exploitation of our western coal areas is, therefore, a matter of national moment. And since coal-mining is not a poor man's game, a plentiful supply of capital is a pre-essential. Also, for the good of all concerned, it is desirable that initial mistakes be avoided. Coal is, more or less, a public utility. The ownership of the western deposits is vested in the Canadian public, and it is appropriate that the Canadian public should follow intelligently the steps that are being taken to open up some of the most important fields in Alberta.

The latest and perhaps the most significant happening in Albertan coalfields is the amalgamation of the interests of the German Development Company with those of the Canadian Northern Railway. This is an event that will have far-reaching effects. A glance over the railway map will be sufficient to justify the assertion that this alliance gives the Canadian Northern a most advantageous position. Possibly it brings in their hands the control of a considerable proportion of the bituminous coal supply available for railway use in Alberta.

The amalgamated interests are represented by two recently incorporated companies, "The Rocky Mountain Collieries, Limited," and "The Brazeau Collieries, Limited." The property of the first-named company is situated a few miles south of the main line of the C. P. R., where this line enters the Rockies, and where, up to now, the inadequate supply of steam coal shipped from Canmore had to be supplemented by fuel from Crow's Nest Pass. The coal lands controlled by "The Brazeau Collieries, Limited," comprise the areas belonging to the German Development Company, on the Brazeau, Bighorn, and Saskatchewan Rivers, along with the properties of Mackenzie and Mann on the Brazeau and McLeod Rivers.

Doubtless, the Brazeau lands will be worked for the particular benefit of the Canadian Northern Pacific. The coal here, according to the results of careful investigation, is a high-grade bituminous fuel. And it exists in vast quantity. The areas to be worked by "The Rocky Mountain Collieries, Limited," will become more valuable when the Mackenzie and Mann