

"It is this very widespread spirit of mutual consideration and conciliation that bids fair to bring Great Britain—on the heels of a political peace—nearer to the prospects of an industrial peace than she ever dared dream of in the decade preceding the great war. Is there no lesson in this for America, or must she, lacking the chastening influence of a great international war, fritter away her energies in continued and increasingly bitter and costly industrial war within her own borders?"

Mr. Freeman looks hopefully ahead and tactfully suggests that if serious disruption in industries follows the war it may be not wholly because of unreasonable demands of labor on industries that cannot continue to pay wartime wages; but because of failure of employer and employee to "talk it over."

CORRESPONDENCE

FOREIGN CONTROL OF CANADIAN MINES.

Editor, Canadian Mining Journal:

Sir,—Enclosed I send a clipping from a local newspaper purporting to give an account of an interview at Vancouver, B. C., with "Mr. F. H. Phippen, Chief Counsel for the Canadian Northern Railway," which account you may be inclined to reprint for the information of mining men in Ontario and other parts of Canada in which your journal is circulated.

May I venture the opinion that it might be well for the Canadian Northern Railway to instruct those prominently associated with its business affairs to refrain from meddling with matters connected with the mining industry of this province, to which it looks for considerable support, whatever they may do relative to that of Ontario. To those of us who have had many opportunities to observe the generally disastrous outcome of mining enterprises in British Columbia undertaken by British companies, whether Canadian or Old Country (with the outstanding exceptions of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada, Limited, and the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co., and the far less conspicuous success of an occasional much smaller organization), the frequent "butting in" of politicians, or self-styled experts, or even of eminent lawyers, is a matter of deep regret. Further, the flagrant inconsistency of urging the development of the natural resources of the country, as is the commendable custom of numbers of public-spirited men, on the one hand, and of agitating for cutting off the main, if not the only source of capital available under existing conditions for new mining enterprises in Western Canada, as some others are doing, on the other hand, brings about a situation sometimes hampering and perplexing, and at others quite prohibitive of development and substantial progress.

Having in mind the fact that many British owners of mineral claims, as well as foreign owners (and it occurs to me that certain men at the head of the Canadian Northern Railway have been among the former) have held them inoperative for years, and that so far as British Columbia is concerned there is nothing to prevent a continuance of such a paralyzing policy, is it not better to offer even greater inducements to "foreign" capital, rather than to stir up agitation to frighten it away. Certainly the mining industry of

this province would be in a very bad way were it not for the enterprising activity and abundant financial support of United States' capitalists. Why, then, should the mining industry in its need of money for development be debarred from accepting aid from men who know how to make a success of mining, and do so far more often in the West than do Britishers? Has any one ever heard of British companies operating in foreign lands in Siberia, in Spain, in South America, and in the United States? And why should they not if they have the requisite money?

If it be permissible for the Canadian Northern Railway or any other transportation or manufacturing or development enterprise to go to the United States for money for its legitimate purposes, why may not the mining and metallurgical enterprises of Canada do likewise? Whether Mr. Phippen's grandiloquent sentiment, "if we cannot develop our own resources and obtain the full benefit from them, then those resources should not be developed," is practical or is utopian may be a matter of opinion. Probably the great majority of those in British Columbia who are directly interested in productive mining and allied industries will be quite content for that gentleman to experiment in the province from which he comes, but few, if any of them are likely to welcome his efforts along such precarious lines in this part of the Dominion.

Yours, etc.,

Victoria, B.C., January 26, 1917.

E. JACOBS.

The clipping from the "Colonist," referred to by Mr. Jacobs follows:

In an interview at Vancouver, Mr. F. H. Phippen, chief counsel for the Canadian Northern Railway, expressed himself as believing that the Federal Government should take drastic steps to prevent the natural resources of the Dominion falling under the control of foreigners.

"What benefit to Canada are the mines we now have?" he asked. "They have been financed by outside capital and the dividends are sent away from Canada. The only good our country gets out of the resources which are now under development is the support of the workmen who are employed at the different mines.

"This is but a trifle. Canada should benefit entirely from her natural resources. All the money should be kept within the Dominion."

Asked if it would not possibly discourage development if foreign capital was forbidden investment in Canadian mines, Mr. Phippen declared that if this was the result it would be better to leave the properties undeveloped until Canadian capital could be obtained. With foreigners benefiting, Canadians were being robbed of their heritage.

"Canada should be for Canadians only," declared Mr. Phippen. "If we cannot develop our own resources and obtain the full benefit from them, then those resources should not be developed.

"As it is now our natural resources are being wasted to Canada. For all the good our great mines are doing us they might as well not be in Canada. Take for instance the valuable mines of Northern Ontario. The dividends from those mines are in large part being sent across the border. Americans are deriving the benefit."

The judge is convinced that there is a great future ahead of Canada as a mining country. It will be, he believes, the greatest mining country in the world.