

PLANS FOR PROMOTION OF MINERAL OUTPUT

PROMISE OF EMPLOYMENT OF ALIEN ENEMIES TO RELIEVE LABOR SHORTAGE.

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Cobalt, May 27.—From Porcupine and Cobalt there is now coming a constant stream of silver and gold, amounting to approximately \$75,000 per day, Sundays included, or more than \$27,000,000 per annum. That the industry should be allowed to suffer due to lack of workers is a growing puzzle to not a few mining men of this district. From present indications, the resources of Northern Ontario have not yet reached anything like the limit of expansion, and if bullion is essential to the successful prosecution of wars, there would appear to be every incentive toward increasing the present output from this district.

It is a fact that at Porcupine there is at the present time a shortage of approximately one thousand mine workers. Curtailment of mining operations would compel whole communities to disperse. An endeavor to import mine workers has apparently failed, and it is generally recognized that in so far as Porcupine is concerned the mines cannot be operated efficiently with the present forces.

The McIntyre-Porcupine is the only big producer in Porcupine being operated at full blast. Rumors are current that arrangements may be made with the Government to allow each producing mine a given number of alien enemies from the internment camps. This, it is thought, could be worked effectively, and in this direction would appear to be one solution of the present difficulty. It is believed that the Government may decide to allot each mine an ample force of men at a reasonable scale of wages, the aliens to receive only internment pay, and the difference to be placed at the disposal of the Red Cross, Patriotic, or Returned Soldiers' Fund, the expense of military protection at the mines to be borne by the mines either individually or collectively.