

LABOR CONTROL WOULD GREATLY INCREASE FUEL

Manager Declares Present Conditions Reduce Efficiency of Industry.

"If we could control our labor and have it work as we direct we could afford to pay even twenty per cent more in wages and still make a better showing at the close of our year."

This was the declaration made by N. C. Pitcher, general manager of the North American Collieries, Ltd., one of the largest companies operating in the Alberta fields. The company is running five mines in five different areas, and Mr. Pitcher is one of the outstanding authorities on the coal situation in Alberta. Running five mines, he has five times as many opportunities to run into labor troubles as the average operator.

The alien propaganda rampant among mine workers, he says, could easily be controlled by the department of labor and the militia department. In addition to being the mainspring of serious disputes between employers and employed, Mr. Pitcher declares, the propaganda carried on among miners has seriously reduced the efficiency of labor. In proof of this contention he exhibited production sheets showing that one mine with approximately 300 men had turned out 20,000 tons of coal in October, 1916. A year later, the same mine, with the staff augmented by 80 men, produced practically the identical tonnage. Only five of the added employes were contract workers. The balance were employed by the day, so that apart from natural increases in wages the company was compelled to pay approximately \$400 per day more in wages for stationary production.