

# WISH TO KNOW ABOUT CAPITAL

## Dominion Government Desires Information of Alien Money Invested in British Columbia.

### PREMIER BREWSTER TO CONFER WITH BORDEN

#### Many Important Matters to be Discussed at Forthcoming Meeting at Ottawa.

VICTORIA, Jan. 4.—Information relating to the operations of those companies in which capital of alien enemies is involved is being sought by the Dominion government, which has been in communication with the provincial government to that end. What action the Ottawa authorities contemplate taking is not known here, but within the past month considerable correspondence between the two governments has taken place, and it is expected here that at the forthcoming session of the federal house some definite action towards segregating such properties so that alien enemies shall no longer benefit will be taken.

It is no secret that in a number of concerns, chiefly mining, enemy capital is heavily invested, in fact in one coal mine on Vancouver Island the chief shareholders are Germans of title and chiefly Prussians.

The federal government is the only authority which can take any action of a war-time character towards dealing with such properties, but naturally it desires to consult the provincial authorities within the limits of whose jurisdiction such properties lie, and it is with this idea in mind that of late Ottawa has been in communication with the British Columbia government.

#### Principle Adopted.

This question will probably be one of a number which Premier Brewster will discuss with Sir Robert Borden while attending the conference to be held in Ottawa on January 10. The meeting is called primarily to discuss the question of providing for the returned soldiers, Sir Robert Borden having recently requested the provincial government to send a representative. The federal government's policy, which will be presented at the forthcoming Dominion session, has been adopted in principle, but with a view to securing uniformity between federal and provincial policies the conference has been called.

#### Going East.

Premier Brewster will leave tonight or Friday afternoon for the east. He will take advantage of the trip to take up with the federal cabinet a number of subjects of importance to British Columbia, notably the encouragement of the iron and steel industry, as well as the whole mining industry, with special reference to the protection of the metals for the empire's war-time needs, fisheries, and perhaps the question of "better terms" will be revived.

The commission which was appointed to deal with this latter matter is still in existence, but has been "standing pat" for some time. It is probable that the premier will suggest a revival of its operations.

#### Cannot Meet Interest.

The government has been notified by the P. G. E. Railway Company that it will be unable to meet the payment of interest on bonds guaranteed by the province and due on the 15th inst. The payment, which amounts to \$320,000, will have to be met by the province. This will be the third interest payment on the guaranteed bonds which the province will have to meet, the other payments of \$216,016 each having fallen due in January and July of last year.

Satisfactory arrangements have been made by Hon. Ralph Smith, minister of finance, with the Bank of Commerce for financial accommodation to carry along until the end of the fiscal year, March 31, at a rate of between two and three per cent.

Fuller information relative to the financial operations of the office of the agent-general at London, has been requested of Sir Richard McBride by Hon. Ralph Smith, who recently sent a cable to Sir Richard asking for details of certain expenditures which had been made and the accounts sent to the department, but there has been no accompanying explanation of the reasons for the outlays. Fuller and more detailed explanations are sought by the minister, who is also requesting a report relative to the present financial status of the province's new premises in London, completed last year, and in which are housed the offices of the agent-general.