

WILL DISCUSS ALIENS, DRY DOCK AND ZINC

Members Hurry to Ottawa to Take Up Varied Questions With Premier.

Messrs. G. H. Barnard, of Victoria, and R. F. Green, of Kootenay, are on their way to Ottawa to lay before Premier Borden several matters of interest to British Columbia, chief of which is the question of the contemplated release by Dominion authorities of German and Austrian miners now interned at Fernie. They held a conference with Acting Premier Bowser at Victoria before leaving, and expect on reaching Ottawa to meet Premier Sir Richard McBride on his way home from England.

The advisability of the government proceeding with the construction work on the new dry dock at Esquimalt will also be discussed as well as the capability of Victoria firms to manufacture shells.

While in Ottawa Mr. Green will take up with the government the question of finding an outlet for zinc coming from the Kootenay country. The situation is that some fifteen lead mines are laying aside large quantities of zinc owing to the fact that the American smelters, where it was formerly sent for treatment, are overloaded with orders and are unable to handle it expeditiously.

There are no smelters in Canada that can treat zinc, and either smelters must be erected here or the metal sent to Swansea, Wales, for treatment. This latter would entail the securing of ships, an almost insurmountable difficulty during present conditions.