

Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the Imperial Institute, the National Physical Laboratory, and the Chemical Society.

It is recommended:

1. That in dealing with the problems of the chemical trade action should be taken so far as possible in the closest collaboration with representatives of the trade.

2. That the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers should be considered as representative of the chemical trade as a whole with certain branches excepted.

3. That a standing committee should be appointed. This committee, which should be fully representative of all the interests concerned, would establish a permanent link between the Ministry and the trade.

4. That a departmental organization should be set up in the Ministry of Reconstruction to deal with chemical questions.

IRON ORE IN 1917

THE iron ore mined in the United States in 1917 amounted to about 75,324,000 gross tons, compared with 75,167,672 tons in 1916, an increase of 0.2 per cent. The figures for the two years are so nearly the same, however, that when the final returns are received from all the producers the actual quantity mined in 1917 may prove to have been less than that mined in 1916. The shipments from the mines in 1917 are estimated at 75,649,000 gross tons, valued at \$236,178,000, compared with 77,870,553 tons, valued at \$181,902,277 in 1916, a decrease in quantity of 2.9 per cent., but an increase in value of 29.8 per cent. The general average value of the ore per ton at the mines for the whole United States was therefore \$3.12 in 1917, as compared with \$2.34 in 1916. The stocks of iron ores at the mines apparently decreased from 10,876,352 gross tons in 1916 to 10,560,000 tons in 1917, or 2.9 per cent.

To obtain these statistics preliminary figures received from producers of nearly 95 per cent. of the normal output of iron ore were compiled under the direction of Ernest F. Burchard, of the United States Geological

Survey, Department of the Interior, and were supplemented by estimates covering the remainder of the output.

About 85 per cent. of the ore mined in 1917 came, as usual, from the Lake Superior district, which mined about 63,964,000 gross tons and shipped 64,275,000 tons, these quantities representing a very slight increase and a decrease of 3.2 per cent., respectively, compared with 1916. The shipments of iron ore by water from the Lake Superior district, according to figures compiled by the Lake Superior Iron Ore Association, amounted in 1917 to 62,498,901 gross tons. It thus appears that the iron-mining industry in the Lake Superior district has been able to bear the strain of the war demand but not to duplicate the great record of ore shipments made by the district in 1916, which amounted to 64,734,198 gross tons. The slight falling off, it is understood, was due to less favorable weather for shipping early and late in the season of 1917 rather than to inability of the Lake fleet to handle the ore mined.

The South mined and shipped more than 8,100,000 tons of iron ore, the bulk of which was produced in the Birmingham district, Ala., but the iron mines of Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Virginia contributed about 1,400,000 tons to the total.

The Northeastern States—New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania—increased their production slightly as compared with 1916 and shipped to blast furnaces approximately 2,446,000 tons of ore. This quantity, however, represented decrease of 4.1 per cent. as compared with the shipments in 1916.

Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming, the principal iron ore producing States in the West, are estimated to have mined and shipped approximately 666,000 tons of iron ore, compared with 717,660 tons in 1916, a decrease of 7.2 per cent.

Other States, such as California, Connecticut, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, Utah, and West Virginia, in which there are small iron-mining operations, are estimated to have shipped about 144,000

tons of ore, compared with 134,002 tons in 1916, an increase of 7.5 per cent.

The imports of iron ore for the eleven months ending November 30, 1917, according to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, amounted to 913,500 gross tons, so that probably the imports for the whole year reached 988,500 tons, compared with 1,325,736 tons in 1916.

THE FISHERIES CONFERENCE

THE members of the Canadian-American Fisheries Conference held recently in Washington, were received by the President at the White House on January 22, 1918. The President expressed great satisfaction at the cordial and friendly spirit which had manifested itself during the continuance of the conference. The following gentlemen were presented to the President by Hon. William C. Redfield, secretary of commerce and chairman of the conference: Hon. J. Douglas Hazen, chief justice, of New Brunswick; Mr. George J. Desbarats, deputy minister of naval service, and Mr. William A. Found, superintendent of fisheries, of the Canadian delegation; Mr. Edwin F. Sweet, assistant secretary of commerce; Dr. Hugh M. Smith, commissioner of fisheries, of the American delegation; Mr. Arnold Robertson, first secretary of the British Embassy, and Mr. Maitland Dwight, of the department of state, secretaries of the conference.

The conference held eight sessions and made satisfactory progress toward reaching an arrangement suitable to all concerned. Among the questions discussed were the following:

The protection of the salmon in and around the Fraser River; the protection of the halibut, which has been overfished, the center of this industry being Seattle, Vancouver, Prince Rupert and Ketchikan, on the Pacific; equitable rules governing the use of Canadian and American ports by the fishing vessels of both countries, however propelled; the lobster fisheries of the Atlantic; pike-perch fishing in Lake Champlain, and the possible passage of rules relating to the whale industry.

The conference is looking forward to the

privilege of consulting the fishing interests at the hearings which it is proposed to hold in New England and in the maritime provinces of Canada in the near future. It is also proposed to visit the Pacific coast, and it is hoped that these hearings will throw some light on the subject with a view to a satisfactory settlement being reached.

The whole conference is desirous of establishing the present law and practise as regards the fish industry, and believes that with this as a basis a satisfactory conclusion may be attained.

The Canadian delegates extended an invitation to the American delegates to visit Ottawa some time before the conclusion of the conference.

MEDICAL TRAINING CAMPS

EXTENSIONS are being made to the scope of the medical training camps at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., and Fort Riley, Kans., by the addition of courses in specialties required of the Medical, Sanitary and Veterinary Corps under Surgeon General Gorgas. There are at present 5,400 officers and men under training at Fort Oglethorpe and 3,800 at Fort Riley. Fort Riley has a capacity of 7,000. Enlargement of the school at Fort Oglethorpe to the same capacity has been authorized, its present capacity being 5,500. The ultimate needs of the Medical Department of the Army look to training camps of capacities totaling 35,000 to 40,000 officers and men.

There have been graduated from medical training camps since June 1, or are now under instruction, a total of about 9,000 officers and about 20,000 enlisted men. Until December 1 the medical training camp at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind., and the one at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, for colored officers and men, had been contributing to the total, but these camps have been discontinued.

Ten new sections have recently been or are now being established for officers in the medical training camps. These are for the following:

- (1) X-ray specialists;
- (2) orthopedic surgeons;
- (3) psychologists;
- (4) special examining surgeons;
- (5) sanitary engineers;
- (6)