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**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

THE Mines Department announces the formation of an Advisory Committee to assist the Secretary for Mines in matters relating to the Metalliferous Mining Industry. Never was the mining of metalliferous ores in this country in a more parlous condition, for, with the exception of iron ore and ironstone mining and quarrying, practically all the metal mines of the country are shut down, for the very good reason that the cost of production of the dressed minerals is higher than the price at which they can be sold. The high price of production is to be ascribed partly to the increased cost of labour, partly to the high price of materials; while the low price offered for the products is due partly to the low level at which the metals stand in the markets of the world (they are down in some cases nearly to pre-war level), and partly to the high returning charges of the smelters, whose costs have been heavily increased both by the high price of labour and the excessive cost of fuel. Mr. Bridgeman is to be congratulated on being able to get together such a representative body to advise the Mines Department. Its constitution is as follows:—

Sir Cecil Lindsay Budd, K.B.E.	Chairman.
Brig.-Gen. G. M. Jackson	} Representatives of owners of Iron Ore Mines and Quarries.
Mr. Myles Kennedy, J.P.	
Mr. S. J. Lloyd, J.P.	} Representatives of workers in or about Iron Ore Mines and Quarries.
Mr. Claud Edward Pease, J.P.	
Mr. Harry Dack, J.P.	} Representing Owners of Tin Mines.
Mr. T. Gavan-Duffy	
Mr. William Lewney, J.P.	} Representing workers in or about Tin Mines.
Mr. Will Sherwood	
Mr. R. Arthur Thomas	} Representing owners of Lead and Zinc Mines.
Mr. Joseph Harris	
Mr. Anthony Wilson, J.P.	} Representing workers in or about Lead and Zinc Mines.
Mr. James Wignall, M.P.	
Mr. Thomas Falcon	} Mining Engineers.
Mr. Frederick H. Hatch, O.B.E., Ph.D.	
Mr. Frank Merricks, C.B.E.	} Metallurgist.
Mr. Frank William Harbord, C.B.E.	
Mr. T. C. F. Hall	} Economic Geologists.
Professor Henry Louis, D.Sc.	
Dr. James Malcolm Maclaren	

VOL. LVIII.—NO. VII.

19

Mr. J. J. Burton	}	Representing the Iron and Steel
Sir Kenneth Weldon Goadby		Industry.
K.B.E.	}	Representing Medical Science.
Mr. F. C. Starling, of the Mines Department, will act as Secretary to the Committee.		

The Chairman, Sir Cecil Budd, is well known as the Chairman of the British Metal Corporation and of the London Metal Exchange, and as an authority on the non-ferrous metals generally. Of the representatives of owners of ironstone mines and quarries General Jackson is interested in the iron mines of Cumberland, Mr. Myles Kennedy in those of Lancashire, and Mr. Claud Pease in those of the Cleveland district; while Mr. Lloyd owns ironstone quarries in Northamptonshire, Mr. Thomas represents the owners of tin mines and Mr. Anthony Wilson the owners of lead and zinc mines. Of the representatives of the workers Mr. Harry Dack represents the Cleveland miners, Mr. Gavan-Duffy those of Cumberland, Mr. Lewney those of Lancashire, Mr. Sherwood the ironstone quarrymen, Mr. Harris the tin miners, and Mr. Wignall the lead and zinc miners. Economic Geology is well represented on the Committee, Mr. Hall being especially acquainted with the geology of the lead and zinc mines of Shropshire, Dr. Maclaren with the tin mines of Cornwall, and Professor Louis with the iron mines; Dr. Hatch, although he appears among the mining engineers, is also not unknown as an economic geologist. The other mining engineers are Mr. Merricks and Mr. Falcon; while Mr. Harbord represents metallurgy. Mr. Burton, of Middlesbrough, will advise on the iron and steel industry generally, and Sir Kenneth Goadby on the medical aspects of mining. The Committee will hold its first meeting on 5th July.

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THE Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau continues to issue at intervals its "monographs", or, to give them their proper title, "Digests of statistical and technical information relative to the production and consumption of the metals and useful minerals." Up to the present fifteen have appeared, namely, those on aluminium and bauxite, antimony, arsenic, asbestos, bismuth, borates, chrome ore and chromium, cobalt, felspar, Fuller's Earth, magnesite, manganese, monazite, nitrates, and zinc. One on tungsten will be published shortly and others are in an advanced state of preparation. These include some important monographs, for instance, those dealing with iron, coal, and copper. That on iron will be entitled "The Iron Ore Resources of the World", and will be practically on the lines of, but bringing up to date, the report of the Geological Congress which met at Stockholm in 1910. Special funds for the purpose have been contributed by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers.

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MEANTIME the figures for the world's production of minerals for the years 1914-18 have for the bulk of the minerals not yet been published, and similar figures for the years 1919 and 1920 are becoming due. These statistics used to be published by the Home Office, in Part IV of the Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines. During the war their publication was suspended, and on the formation of the Bureau the duty of compiling and publishing them was delegated to the new body. We cannot help thinking that it would have been wiser to have got out as rapidly as possible these vital statistics, and to have left the less important, but interesting, letterpress of the monographs for a more leisurely procedure. Mining engineers all the world over would have welcomed the publication of the production figures, and would have been content to wait until the staff of the Bureau should have had time to cope with the compilation of the monographs.

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THE fourth report of the Conjoint Board of Scientific Societies shows that the Board has received evidence that scientific investigation is being seriously hampered by the heavy cost involved in the publication of results. An exceptional number of papers are being communicated to the Scientific Societies, including many held up during the war, while the resources of the Societies, which have not increased, are insufficient at present prices to publish even the normal pre-war number. The country is thus in danger of being seriously handicapped at a time when the rehabilitation of industry is in most serious need of scientific assistance. Much of the report is occupied with a short abstract of the third report of the committee on the water power of the Empire. It is shown that too little is being done to ascertain the total resources, or to secure uniformity in investigation and record. It is urged that steps should be taken to convene an Imperial Water Power Conference in London, at which the various Dominions and Dependencies of the Empire should be represented. The outcome of such a conference might well be the creation of an Imperial Water Power Board, with extensive powers to carry out a comprehensive policy for stimulating, co-ordinating, and, where necessary, assisting development throughout the Empire. The Board has also dealt with questions relating to the formation of National Research Committees, in connexion with the International Research Council, formed in 1919, with the collection of scientific data in the former German colonies, and with instruction in technical optics. The research on glues and other adhesives initiated by the Board as a war measure, at the instance of the Air Ministry, has now been taken over by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.