

## ICELAND SPAR IN MONTANA

HARDLY had the query, "Can not some American mineralogist discover a workable deposit [of iceland spar]?" appeared in our columns<sup>1</sup> than announcement was made by Dr. Charles L. Parsons, of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, that such a deposit had been found in Montana.<sup>2</sup> "The crystals from the Montana deposit," he says, "appear to be the nearest approach to Iceland spar yet uncovered in any part of the world." The deposits have been found to be of great extent and easily workable. Some of the "crystals" (probably cleavage rhombs) are slightly turbid, cloudy or milky, and others, while perfectly clear, show cleavage cracks; these cracks are probably due to too violent treatment in the process of mining the material, and can probably be avoided by careful working. Examination by the Bureau of Standards indicates that the material is suitable for optical work; and one of the best proofs of its value is the report that 600 pounds of it were at one time sold in Germany. Let us hope that the monopoly of iceland spar which that country endeavored to obtain in preparation for the present war will be prevented by this discovery.

## TRANSPARENT QUARTZ (ROCK-CRYSTAL) WANTED

The Government is in need of quartz of optical quality. Crystals or fragments must be flawless and at least 3 x 6 centimeters ( $1\frac{1}{4}$  x  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches) in diameter.

Patriotic collectors are urged to send any material of the above description which they may have on hand to Dr. George P. Merrill, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

The need is urgent!

Act at once!

**Do your bit toward winning the war!**

Dr. A. D. Brokaw, assistant professor of mineralogy at the University of Chicago, has taken charge for the government of oil production in the eastern part of the country.

<sup>1</sup> *Am. Min.*, 3 (5), 47, May, 1918.

<sup>2</sup> *Science*, 47 (1221), 508-509, May 24, 1918.