

Mr. de Schmid goes on to say that "While unsuited to the manufacture of super-phosphate by the sulphuric acid method, the Alberta rock would probably prove suitable for treatment by one of the thermic processes which have lately been proposed to supplant the sulphuric method."

The fact that Mr. de Schmid had located this richer bed was first announced in a paper on the discovery of these deposits which I read before the Geological Society of America, at Washington in December, 1915, and was published in an abstract of this paper, which, at the request of the officers of the National Academy of Science, appeared in the proceedings of the Academy a few weeks later.

To sum up then: The phosphate deposits of the Western United States have been found to extend across the boundary line into Canada. In a small area near Banff over 26,000,000 short tons of phosphate of lime are present. The bed varies in thickness considerably; but is too thin to work at the present time under present conditions. In that part of the area, however, where the bed is two feet thick and well situated for working, with changing conditions, as time goes on, especially should a law forbidding the export of phosphate from the United States be enacted, as has already been recommended by certain influential interests in that country, Canadians may be very glad to avail themselves of this great deposit of phosphates. Furthermore, the horizon containing these deposits has been found to strike both north and south from the Banff area, and hundreds of miles of promising tracts in Canadian territory await detailed study and prospecting for additional and richer bodies of this valuable mineral. The discovery as a matter of fact is one of much interest and importance, adding, as it does, another item to the mineral wealth of the Dominion of Canada.

In Professor Haultain's letter in your issue of July 1st, entitled the Ferrier-Adams Episode, he humorously reverts to his "idee fixe" with reference to the Geologist and the Mining Engineer. My old friend, Dr. Ferrier, is cited as a type of that ideal and commanding personality—the Engineer—who "followed up his discovery—as an Engineer—with care and thoroughness and then held his tongue—as an Engineer—until his clients gave him their long withheld permission to speak"—while the Geologist, with fewer facts at his disposal, got the credit for the discovery. Professor Haultain's story would have been a good one if his facts were correct. It is not a matter that I would have touched upon had he not compelled me to do so—but to continue the comedy, I may set forth the actual facts. The Engineer in the case, having been engaged by private clients to carry out certain work for them and to "hold his tongue" with reference to it, did so absolutely for some four years. But no sooner had these deposits been discovered by the Geologists than this silence was at once broken. The Deputy Minister of Mines, and a number of other gentlemen connected with the mining industry, were informed by Dr. Ferrier, who seemed to consider himself in some way aggrieved by our discovery, that he knew of the existence of these deposits and that they were "no good." This information naturally spread abroad in all directions, and, employing Professor Haultain's expressive phrase, "like the story of the crows, grew in the telling." When our report was nearly ready for the press, Dr. Ferrier also suggested that he should join us and

that a joint report be issued. This we declined, preferring to take the responsibility for our own work only, while at the same time pointing out to Dr. Ferrier that all the usual channels of publication open to us were open to him and that if he had any facts to make known to the public, he should at once do so over his own signature. He, however, did not see fit to do this. All this took place, it will be noted, several months before Dr. Ferrier received permission to say anything, since at the meeting of the Canadian Mining Institute in Ottawa, on March 1st, 1916, he stated that he had only succeeded in obtaining this permission on the previous day.

"Discovery" is only discovery when it is recorded. In his previous knowledge of the existence of these deposits Dr. Ferrier resembled the Creator of the Universe whose knowledge even antedated that of Dr. Ferrier, but the knowledge in both cases was equally valueless to the community, for neither revealed the secret. It is, furthermore, rather difficult to understand why Dr. Ferrier seemed so anxious to grasp at some shred of credit for a discovery which he asserted was of no value.

And so this heroic and ideal figure of the Mining Engineer, clothed with knowledge and girded about with silence, like some other glorious conceptions, upon examination "fades into the light of common day," while the more prosaic geologist, working in the interest of the public, and stating plainly what he had found so soon as he had found it, obtained the recognition due to his work. Yours, etc.

Frank D. Adams.

July 17, 1917.

Concerning the Proposed Information Bureau.

To the Editor of The Canadian Mining Journal:

Sir,—In your editorial "Development of Resources," in your issue of July 15th, you struck a true note when you wrote: "The success of the Bureau insofar as Canada is concerned will not depend so much on the initiative of those in London as on the ability of Canadians to keep the Bureau informed on Canada." You might have said with advantage, "willingness and ability." Still, without continual reminders a bureau from three to six thousand miles away is apt to be forgotten and, consequently, co-operation cease.

During the last two years it has fallen to my lot to see that the mineral section of Canadian exhibit at the Panama-Pacific, and Panama-California, International Expositions was kept as much as possible up-to-date from both a mineral and metallurgical standpoint. To do this while away from the country, one has had to rely on the technical press of both Canada and the United States and on the daily press of the mining sections of Canada. When a new mineral discovery or a new metallurgical process was reported in the press, if the parties making the discovery were known to be trustworthy they were written to and asked for such information as they were prepared to divulge and for samples that might prove of interest for the exhibit.

If, on the other hand, the discoverers were unknown, the Bureau of Mines of the province in which the discovery was made, or the Federal Department of Mines, was asked to corroborate the report and if possible to obtain samples. In this way, of course, it should have been possible to keep our department absolutely up-to-date with regard to both mineral discoveries and metal-