

Germany ; and there is no reason why methods which are so successful in those countries should not be equally so here, provided the greater cost of labor be not an insuperable obstacle. Figures given by the American expert, Birkenbine, for the Ottawa district, some years ago, placed the cost of manufacture, even under the then unfavorable conditions, at such a price as to fairly warrant investment at some central point such as Ottawa city, and to make the erection of a blast furnace profitable, but the initial cost of such an enterprise is heavy and investors prefer often to take their chances in some more gilded scheme, even though, as is often the case, the results are not always very flattering. However this country is as yet comparatively young in mining matters and the attention of foreign capitalists is now only being directed to this portion of the empire as a field for profitable investment, so that it is not worth while to become greatly discouraged over a present depression along certain lines.

GRAPHITE.

Among the other mineral industries that at some not far distant day promise to be a very important factor in the country's development is the mining of graphite. We have in the Ottawa district some of the largest and most valuable deposits of this mineral anywhere known, and easy of access, and though efforts have been made in a half-hearted way for some years to turn these to profitable account, such attempts have been so carried on as not to yield satisfactory returns. In such a case we should not attribute the lack of success to any fault on the part of the ore deposit, since this has been thoroughly investigated in the laboratory of the Geological Survey, and the mineral found to equal in quality, for all practical purposes, that from the celebrated mines of Ceylon, which so largely enter the markets of the world to-day. The failure rather seems to be on the part of those who have the mines in charge, and to their lack of enterprise in seeking a market, since the Canadian market alone consumes annually a sufficient amount of this material to warrant the workings of these deposits on a large scale. Thus