

color that its separation is difficult, and again, the greenish pyroxene may be mistaken for it. In the early history of the industry, a cargo lot of pyroxene was actually forwarded to England in mistake for phosphate, and the unfortunate shipper was astounded by a draft for freight and charges, accompanied by a chemists' certificate, saying, "there is dirt enough in this country without importing any from across the Atlantic."

The large profits, as in most mining industries, have fallen rather to the land speculator than to the mine operator. One block of about 1,600 acres purchased from the Government for less than \$5,000 was sold for \$16,000, then re-sold in two portions for \$160,000, one of which was afterwards "capitalized" in a stock company at \$450,000. Another property of 100 acres, bought at sheriff's sale for \$15, was finally sold for \$125,000 in cash. A few parties have made large profits for a time from legitimate mining, and many have increased their incomes substantially by judicious work on a small scale. It is found by experience that the phosphate mining industry does not often offer a large speculative profit, and will not bear excessive capitalization, nor extravagant methods of operation; but it promises a fair commercial return to those who make a wise selection of lands, exercise intelligent methods of work and practice judicious economy. A very great benefit has been conferred upon the country by this industry, and during the fifteen years in which it has been actively prosecuted, it has occasioned an expenditure in Canada of at least three million dollars, all of which has inured to the benefit of working people. If in some cases investors have failed to get a satisfactory return, they can have the consolation of knowing that the money has been spent in wages for poor people, and has always had a chance of bringing in a large recompense; for he who mines gambles with nature and sometimes wins great prizes and sometimes gets nothing. But the money is not "thrown into the ground" when scattered among hardy wage-earners. In some cases while working phosphate, deposits of mica, felspar, plumbago, cop-