It was suggested by the President of the Fink Smelter Company that the Department of Mines send a representative to Coniston to witness the run. To a telegram addressed to Mr. Corless, Manager, asking for permission to witness and report upon the test-runs made with the furnace, we received reply that, at present, Mr. Corless was not in a position to grant our request. It is hoped that opportunity may be afforded to the Department at a later date to witness and report upon a test-run made with this furnace. If successful in treating raw ore for the production of an 80 per cent matte, by a single operation, and the Hall process can be applied to the recovery of sulphur from the gases issuing from the furnace, an immense step forward in the treatment of the Sudbury ores will have been made, and the sulphur dioxide troubles will not alone have been effectively overcome, but elemental sulphur will be produced as a by-product, which will find a ready market, and Canada, instead of importing this material, will probably be in a position to export it.

General Aspects of Work of Mines Branch

Permit me now to make some general statements regarding the efforts which have been made by the Mines Branch to render effective service to the mining industry.

Reports for Manufacturers

Shortly after the organization of the Department of Mines, it was found desirable, and in the interests of the mining industry, to make an investigation into the requirements of Canadian manufacturers for such minerals as they employ as raw materials, or indirectly, as a means of producing the finished articles of their factories.

To obtain this information, the manufacturers throughout the Dominion were called upon, and as full details as possible were obtained from them regarding the minerals used by them, the quantity of each consumed per annum, the source of supply, and the price, delivered at their factories. Special attention, in this enquiry, was directed to the physical and chemical properties which should be specified in purchasing the various minerals for each of their uses.

The report on this investigation, entitled "Non-Metallic Minerals Used in the Canadian Manufacturing Industries," is now in press, and will be ready for distribution early this year. It contains not only tables giving the yearly consumption of each mineral by each class of industry, and the source of supply, but includes descriptive articles on each mineral, its uses, the methods of preparation for the market, and notes on the physical and chemical properties which fit, or unfit, it for the several uses. There are two