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### CHEMICAL INDUSTRY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Good service was rendered to its members when a paper by Dr. W. R. Lang, chemistry professor at Toronto University, was secured for the meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry at its meeting last week. The professor's subject was "Chemical Industry in British Columbia." Manifestly, we can deal only briefly with certain phases of the subject. Not alone did he mention mining, which is the industry in connection with which Canadians usually think of our most westerly Province, but he found chemical works, breweries, a distillery, sugar refineries, vinegar making, and a host of other smaller industries flourishing in the West. In Victoria there is, as it will surprise many "Eastern" people to learn, an excellent plant for the preparation of sulphuric acid. To those who think it a strange thing that sulphur imported from islands of the Pacific was used at these works instead of sulphur produced from our own Kootenay ores it needs to be explained that the high rail and water freight (500 miles) on Kootenay sulphur would prevent its economic use at Victoria. By-and-bye probably this sulphur will be used.

A Portland cement plant was erected not far from Victoria early in the present year. It is known as the Vancouver Portland Cement Co., and controlled by the same people who operate the Owen Sound Portland Cement Co. and the Lakefield Cement Co. in Ontario. There are two rotary kilns in operation on the Island. Fire-brick, drain pipes, and lime are also made on the Island of Vancouver. It will be news to Canadians generally to learn from Dr. Lang's paper that quantities of lime are being exported from that island, mostly to the Orient.

Of unusual interest are some facts and figures respecting the coke ovens at Fernie, taken in part from the Government Bulletin on Mining for 1904. At these ovens the volatile products of distillation of

the coal "share the same fate as the sulphur at the smelters"; that is, they are wasted by dissipation into the air. Out of 268,320 tons coal there was produced 167,700 tons of coke; this left a difference of 100,620 tons to be accounted for in the shape of coal-tar, ammonia-liquor, gas and sulphur. The value of this coal-tar (1,780,000 gallons) is \$53,400, and that of ammonia-liquor (4,200,000 gallons), \$42,000, taking three cents and one cent per gallon as probable prices. Here is \$95,400 a year going to waste! This waste appears inevitable in the present condition of development in the neighborhood of the Crow's Nest Pass Company's works, because the demand for such substances close at hand does not permit the saving of them, and they are too far away from other parts of Canada to justify the freight on them. This may be expected to be cured by further settlement and railway construction in the near future.

At the other end of the Dominion, namely at Sydney, the Dominion Iron and Steel Company utilize the more volatile products of their coke oves for making benzol, creosote oil and carbonic acid. The demand for these in Canada not being sufficient, a considerable amount of these products is sent to Europe and the United States.

The references made by Dr. Lang to the reduction works at Trail and Nelson are tempting, especially that to the production of lead by the Betts electrolytic process. This, he tells us, is the first instance of this process being carried out on a commercial scale. "A plant for making lead pipe up to four inches in diameter is included in the C. P. R. Company's equipment, the first of its kind in Canada for producing lead pipe from Canadian lead." It should be added that this is the first company to make silver bullion in quantity from Canadian ores smelted on the spot. At the works of the Granby Consolidated Company, at Grand Forks, which the professor did not visit, are installed Bessemer converters, "having a capacity for treating about 100 tons of copper matte daily—an ex-