

We have shown already that the second and third qualities do not realise high enough prices in Europe to cover cost of production, and will now point out what is the main cause of the general non-success of the mining operations in Canada of late years, apart from the influence of developments in Florida.

The present system of cobbing and of making so many grades of ore must be discontinued. One of the heaviest expenses in the total cost of production is in the selection, preparation and handling of the phosphate. Instead of several qualities there should be only two, *i.e.*, first quality of 80 per cent. and over, and the residue which will probably average about 62 per cent.

The proper method of operation is to select only the absolutely pure pieces of ore in the pits, raise them to the surface, and dispatch them direct to the bins at the river's bank or other shipping or loading point, as the case may be. Cobbing-houses and cobbing-boys, and double and treble handling would thus be done away with. All the fine and mixed ore should be kept separate and ground at Buckingham or elsewhere, and either dispatched to points in the United States, or else converted locally into superphosphate. If this were done the quantity of phosphate produced and marketed would bear a greater proportion to the total quantities of rock mined, and would mean just the difference between profits and losses.