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RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY

Since the war began there has been a great change in many industries and importers and manufacturers have been brought face to face with many new problems. New sources for raw materials have been sought in all parts of the world and methods of utilizing different raw materials have been devised. The removal of Germany and her allies from world trade has given unexpected opportunities as well as affording some initial embarrassment for certain manufacturers. The enormous demand for war supplies has created a better market for many materials and some products almost unsaleable before the war are greatly in demand. In several lines there is an opportunity now of establishing industries which, if economically managed, should be able to get a firm footing and be in position to withstand foreign competition later.

Those who establish new industries or improve old ones always have to meet many difficulties. Many of these have been removed by scientific research. It often happens that a series of experiments will disclose a simpler and cheaper method of performing some detail of a process. Everyone knows this; but it is not every manager that troubles to have the necessary research done, though few are so short-sighted as not to encourage members of their staff who carry on experiments to improve methods.

Many of the necessary investigations are satisfactorily carried on in the mine or at the mill, smelter or refinery. Many problems are, however, not tackled because of lack of proper facilities.

In this issue Mr. F. M. Turner, Acting Secretary of the Bureau of Scientific Research and School of Specific Industries, Royal Canadian Institute, Toronto, outlines what is hoped to be accomplished in Canada by the recently organized Bureau. The work accomplished by the Mellon Institute is becoming very favorably known and the establishment of a similar Bureau in Canada is much to be desired.

The "Mineral Industry" for 1914 has been issued and compares well with former volumes. Of especial interest are the notes showing the effect of the war on the various phases of the industry. In most cases the story is of depression during the first few months and then gradual or even very sudden improvement. The account of progress in 1915 will be a much more cheering one.

The market for silver has been firmer lately and predictions of good prices may yet be realized. So far, however, the advance from the lowest price of the year has not been very large.