

One of the causes for the slow development of the silver-lead mining industry in the Kootenays, has been the difficulty in treating the zinc product of these ores; but a process of treatment has now been perfected, and it has been demonstrated that ore carrying large values in zinc can be treated so as to save all values and produce a handsome profit on the spelter. When a sufficient tonnage of this ore is produced (and large bodies of ore are known to exist) there will be opportunities for the construction of smelters for the treatment of zinc, which, being done in Canada, will ensure the entire Canadian market in spelter and its by-products, with equality in the export market with the zinc producers of the United States.

Natural gas, which is found in large quantities along the South Saskatchewan River, in Alberta and adjoining territories, is being used in the manufacture of common, pressed and fire brick, tiling, sewer pipe and other clay products, suitable clay being found in close proximity to the natural-gas fields. The great demand in the West for all clay products justifies increased development of this industry. Tests are now being made for the manufacture of gasoline from natural gas, which, if successful, will open up a new and profitable industry in the Province of Alberta and elsewhere.

Attention is directed to the unlimited supply of pulp wood, which exists in many parts of the Western Provinces. Large mills for manufacture of pulp paper are at present under construction on the Powell River, 75 miles from Vancouver on the Main Land, and other mills are already in existence, but this is a field which capital can extend almost without limit.

The water powers of the West (a very inadequate synopsis of which is printed at the end of this book) are enormous. Some of these powers are now in course of development and manufacturing of every description can be carried on here as economically (if not more so) as in any other part of the world.

The flax industry is only yet in its infancy, the production as shown above for the fiscal year 1909 being 4,784,786 bushels. There are several large linseed oil mills in the West at the present time, but additional mills will be necessary to keep pace with the increased demand for this product. No use is at present made of the flax straw, which is all destroyed. There is a large field for allied products such as flax tow (for upholstery purposes), linen wool from flax fibre, etc.

The resources of this Western Country are so immense, and at the present time have been developed to such a small extent, that it is impossible more than touch the fringe of what can be understood to be a large and important subject. However, what has been said may be sufficient to further direct the attention of capital to the West, where a profitable undertaking can always be accomplished, when worked on an equitably economical basis.

Attention is directed to the new towns which will be opened up next spring and summer on the new branch lines running from Regina to Bulyea; Craven to Colonsay; Outlook to Kerrobert and Macklin; Carmangay to Aldersyde; Weyburn West and Irricana East as shown on pages 74, 88, 91, 92, 93, 100, 112.

The rapid expansion of our lines of railway and the new towns which are constantly being opened up naturally tends to increase the number of business openings that are available, and at the same time it may be that there are many opportunities shown in this book, which will be filled before it is in the hands of the public. Great care has been taken in compiling the information contained herein, the data having been collected from reliable sources.

The Industrial Department will at any time be glad to receive advice of errors which may have crept in, and at the same time, will gladly welcome suggestions which will tend to the increased usefulness of this publication.

We are in close touch with conditions throughout this immense territory and desire to do everything possible to aid in its development and growth, and will consider it a favor if you will write to the undersigned for any information you desire regarding the resources of this great and growing country. JOHN F. SWEETING,
Winnipeg, Manitoba. Industrial Agent.