THE SECOND INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE.

Views of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.

In all probability, the Minister of Labor will call a second Industrial Conference, to meet at Ottawa during the autumn. Few will gainsay that it is, in theory, an excellent plan to bring together periodically in gatherings of this kind representatives of industrial employers, of employees, and of the general public. In practice, however, the usefulness of such a conference must depend very largely on the degree to which the various delegates can really speak authoritatively for the class they are supposed to represent. The labor delegates, representing organized and unionized labor, can be depended upon to act as a single unit. They are agreed upon what labor wants, and by their life's training and practical experience in such matters, they are both prepared and qualified to state their views or demands of labor upon any question which may arise. On the other hand, at last year's conference it was evident that the employers' representatives were in a position to speak only for themselves, or at most for the one particular industry in which they were engaged, and it must be admitted that, in general, they did not display a sufficiently intimate knowledge of the wider aspects of the various labor problems that came up for discussion. The delegates representing the general public, also, could do no more than express their opinions as individuals, and in no sense did they fairly represent the class for whom they appeared—a class that surely is as vitally interested in the establishment of harmonious industrial relations as are either the employers or the employees. A conference so constituted cannot possibly go very far towards solving permanently the problems underlying industrial unrest. It might be compared with a match in which a team of amateurs, who have never previously played together, is pitted against a well trained professional team. No matter how able and resourceful the former may be individually, their lack of understanding and combination places them at a great disadvantage, and the game must suffer. So with the conference, and unfortunately there is, on very important points, sufficient antagonism between employers and employees to render the parallel all the closer. Since there must be two sides, let them be evenly matched and determind to play the game. As was stated in the *Bulletin* in commenting on last year's conference, "if industry it to benefit to the fullest possible extent from such meetings as the recent Conference, it is essential that representatives of employers as well as employees should be in a position to speak authoritatively for the interests for whom they appear.

NOTES ON MINING OF MICA, GRAPHITE AND MAGNESITE IN QUEBEC.

(From Bulletin of C. I. M. & M.)

The demand for Canadian mica continues to be good; the prices are quite satisfactory, and in consequence the mines of the Lièvre-Gatineau region are very active. The Blackburn mica mine, at McGregor lake, one of the very few underground mica workings in the country, has now reached a depth of 250 feet on a slope of 60 deg. The Wallingford mines, at Perkins, are getting out some remarkably large sheet-mica, a great proportion of which is shipped to England. Canadian mica is of the variety phlogopite, possessing elasticity and dielectric properties unattained in the other varieties. The province of Quebec produced last year over 80 per cent of the Canadian output of this mineral.

The graphite industry is showing signs of resuming activity. After a year of inactivity, the Quebec Graphite Company, Ltd., has re-opened its mines and completely remodelled its mill, which is now working with the Callow process as the basis of its concentration practice. Oil flotation methods appear to be the process to which the Buckingham ores are most amenable. The Quebec Graphite Company has also gone into the manufacture of graphite products, such as flake lubricants, graphite pastes, pipe-joint compounds and foundry facings, and they intend to extend this list to include graphite greases, stove polish, electrodes and paints.

All the magnesite quarries are in operation in the Grenville district. The Scottish-Canadian Magnesite Company, which has installed a very complete and modern plant for the production of dead-burned magnesite, is now turning out a product that finds a ready market in the United States, in Canada and in Europe. The North American Magnesite Company has also built a very complete mill at Calumet, but, unfortunately, the starting has been delayed by the non-delivery of some of the machinery. In the meantime, the quarry has been active and the rock shipped, as in the past, to the Longue Pointe cement plant, where it is dead-burned in the rotary cement-kilns. The International Magnesite Company, operating in Harrington township, is producing calcined magnesia, used in the manufacture of flooring cement. The consideration, by the Senate of the United States, of the Magnesite Bill, which passed Congress in October last, imposing a duty of ¾c per lb. on dead-burned magnesite entering the United States, has been postponed until next December.

TALCUM FIGHTS FIRE.

Talcum powder, a leading ingredient of vanity cases, was recently used in putting out a fire which otherwise would have burned down a coal tar products plant in Cincinnati, Ohio. The blaze which had caught a huge tank of napthalene was smothered by dumping upon it fifty-pound sacks of the well-known complexion aid.

In a yard near the burning plant where tanks containing 300,000 gallons of oil, but as the fire was checked they were not touched by the flames, according to an account in the current number of the Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry. This is the first time that a cosmetic has been applied with puffs to the bright face of danger.

A large deposit of metallic arsenic is reported on Alder Island, one of the smaller islands of the Queen Charlotte group. Several claims have been staked covering the entire island, and samples taken indiscriminately give returns from 18 per cent. to 24 per cent. arsenic, while the locator states it is possible to obtain specimens of the almost pure mineral. This is the first deposit of the kind on record in British Columbia, although for years arsenic has been produced as a by-product from the arsenopyrite ores of the Hedley Gold Mining Company.—From the Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry.