

from which these lakes are fed and which would account for the fact that a part of these lakes are very good paying lakes in potash content while lakes of a similarly favorable situation have no appreciable potash whatever. As I say, I think it is not unreasonable that borings and investigations in these regions may uncover an underground source of this potash supply.

There has been one other source which has not been mentioned this morning which I am interested in just now, and that is the alunite or the crude potassium aluminium sulphate of some of our western states, and I am going to spend the summer investigating one of those fields. The same problems, of course, present themselves up there as in some of the other sources here, namely, that we have the problem of getting rid of alum while the potash is probably more marketable. If we can find men of the East who are interested in the aluminium side or can utilize that side of the product I think it is not unlikely that the alunite deposits of some of our Western states may prove amply profitable as a source of potash.

Mr. LUDWIG A. THIELE: In considering all these papers of this morning, it seems to me, that while we have arrived at a certain production of potash in this country, it is not of such consequence as to warrant a great outlay for the future. These potash deposits are too low and the cost of production too high and by-products are not available. If you stop to think that the German potash industry obtains enormous amounts of by-products, such as bromine, chlorine, magnesium chloride and sulphate, their production is far in advance of the methods advocated right now. Really, my candid opinion is, that we should try to find better resources for potash in this country. If we would devote more of our time and money exploring this country, possibly by drilling in Arizona and the Western sections where we might be able to find rich deposits of potash salts, this would solve the proposition absolutely; but to find it out of cement mills, the beet sugar industry and so on, is a makeshift only for the present and cannot last.

Mr. WILLIAM M. BARR: In connection with Mr. Lewis' suggestion on the theory of a continuous underground supply of potash in the Nebraska fields, I may say that in connection with the study of water supply of the district west of the Mississippi River and particularly Nebraska, I have made a good many borings, both of deep and shallow wells, and I have never found anything that would lead me