

following, among other products: fertilizers, explosives, dyes, pyrotechnics, match photographic chemicals, etc., and is used for assaying and in gold extraction, etc.

Fertilizers are manufactured in the form of calcium nitrates, by a solution of limestone in nitric acid, or the direct leading of the gases from the furnaces over slaked lime. It is a well known fact that the soil demands the nitrogen extracted from it by the plant to be returned in the form of manure. Of the well known fertilizers, nitrate of lime as produced by the Norway plants, has been found to be the most economical. They contain about 13% of nitrogen in the most active form and 25% to 30% of lime in a soluble condition. The nitrogen being in a readily soluble form is distributed quickly through the soil and thus comes at once within reach of the plant roots. It is assimilated by the plants without having first to undergo transformations in the soil as in the case of sulphate of ammonia and almost all other compounds of nitrogenous substances. In Canada with its great agricultural farm lands the market will in the future be an unlimited one, and in the meantime British Columbia ports are excellently placed for the shipment of fertilisers by an all water route through the Panama Canal to Europe.

The enormous use of explosives in British Columbia for logging, quarrying, railway construction and public works, will make the future demand for this commodity much greater than in the past, and as the base of all explosives is nitric acid, it will be realized that a great local market will be available for utilizing their manufacture.

The manufacture of calcium carbide is the oldest of the electro-chemical industries in Canada. It is obtained by causing quicklime to react on coke at the temperature of the electric arc; its principal use is in the production of acetylene gas, and also for the production of calcium cyanide for nitrogenous fertilisers. At present in eastern Canada there are plants utilising 14,000 H.P. and producing 12,000 tons per annum, half of which is exported. As British Columbia is favourably situated for this industry with all the raw materials in abundance, there are opportunities in this field for profitable investment. The calcium carbide industry* originated in Canada with Mr. Wilson of Ottawa as one of the pioneers and there are now 70 plants in different parts of the world absorbing 360,000 H.P. for its production. In 1910 the world's production was 250,000 tons, which had increased to 340,000 tons in 1913; it will be seen that there is also a great future for the enterprise and capital in this industry.

In the field of electro-metallurgical work probably few countries in the world have greater promise for its development and the opportunities for the use of electric smelters in a country so rich in mineral resources is unbounded. The reader is referred for information on this subject to an interesting paper on "The Electric Furnace in Metallurgical Work" published by the U. S. Bureau of Mines, as it is impossible to do more than refer to the possibilities here. The establishment of electric metallurgical refineries for copper in the

* See paper, "Making our Water Powers Valuable," by Arthur Surveyer, M. Can. Soc. C.E., Proceedings, Can. Soc. C.E., 1914.

† See Bulletin No. 77, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1914.

See also Bulletin 67, "Electric Furnaces for Making Iron & Steel," 1913.