

That the war will interfere with mining operations is to be expected. So far, however, the indications are that comparatively few Canadian mines will be closed down in the near future. Gold mining should be one of the most attractive industries in these troublous times. The market for silver is somewhat uncertain and the price is likely to vary greatly. It is probable, however, that the companies will venture to increase their stocks somewhat while awaiting developments. There should be a good demand for nickel. Copper has shown the greatest weakness and many United States producers are cutting down their output to one-half. Much of the copper produced in Canada is obtained from ores containing nickel or gold. The market for these metals being good, there will likely be considerable copper produced. The market for asbestos, in spite of General Sherman's admonition that "War is Hell" has not been good since war was declared. As most of our asbestos goes to the United States the market will depend largely on the state of trade in that country. Coal will be necessary as in times of peace, and the coal mines will continue to make large outputs.

The buyers of silver are at present out of the market and say that the price must come down. On the other hand the producers claim that silver will be used for coinage and that the price will go up. It is to be hoped that the producers are right.

While there will be much demand for nickel the market for it is not sure to be a good one, owing to the difficulty of making deliveries of nickel steel from the United States. The Mond Nickel company which treats its matte in England is likely to be kept very busy, but the International Nickel Co. has discharged several men.

OIL COMPANY PROMOTIONS

The public has refused to be taken in by the promoters of Calgary oil companies. In Calgary the citizens have contributed enough money to test the fields. They will not, however, find the market for shares very good. The invasion of the East by stock salesmen has failed. The industry has therefore a chance to be developed on its merits.

While many organizers of companies are disappointed with the reception accorded their glowing advertisements, they have only themselves to blame. The field has yet to be proven and any attempt to raise money by claiming that success is certain deserved to fail. At the time of our visit to the field, about a month ago, oil had only been found in one well, and yet four hundred companies had been organized and trading was in progress on four stock exchanges.

In contrast with the excitement at Calgary the scenes at Okotoks were pleasing. There was evidence that some of the money raised is being used to explore the field. Car loads of oil well supplies were on the sidings and workmen were loading wagons to be drawn

across the prairie. The citizens of Calgary may not be able to dispose of their shares at a profit to outsiders without proving their value; but they will themselves reap the benefit if oil is found in large quantities.

This is as it should be. A sufficiently large number have invested in an enterprise known to be venturesome. Further appeals for support should not be made until it has been shown that the money already raised is being wisely expended. Then appeals may be expected to be listened to.

A PROSPECTORS' HAND-BOOK

The Geological Survey of Canada has issued the first of what promises to be a very useful series of handbooks for the prospector. This is a neat little booklet of twenty-six pages containing notes on radium bearing minerals by Wyatt Malcolm. There has been recently a great demand for information concerning the radium ores and the booklet meets this want.

Mr. Malcolm describes the uranium minerals from which radium is derived and the tests by which they may be recognized. He gives brief descriptions of the more important occurrences of uranium minerals in Portugal, Colorado and Utah, U.S.A.; Cornwall, Eng., and Joachimsthal, Bohemia. The places in which radium-bearing minerals have been found in Canada are: Madoc, Ont.; Mamainse, Ont.; Maisonneuve, Que.; Murray Bay, Que.; Snowdon, Ont.; Villeneuve, Que., and Wakefield, Que.

Up to date no important deposit has been found in Canada. The little booklet may assist some one to discover radium. The enterprise of the Geological Survey is therefore to be commended.

UNIT CONSTRUCTION COSTS

A paper containing a great store of useful information for metallurgists has been prepared by Mr. E. Horton Jones for presentation at the Salt Lake meeting of the American Institute of Mining Engineers. The data derived from the building of the Arizona Copper company's smelter at Clifton, Arizona, is given in great detail. In Chapter I—Unit Costs, are to be found the most elementary total unit costs which the accounts provide for. In Chapter II—Comparative Costs—these elementary costs have been classified, averaged and reported as labor and material unit costs. In Chapter III—Composite Costs are given. They are unit costs built up from several elementary units, and likewise units of larger dimensions and simpler application, valuable for checking estimates and obtaining approximations of total costs. In Chapters IV, V and VI are given the Wage Scale Material Prices, and a description of the conditions surrounding the making of every elementary unit cost, which will enable the estimator to judge of their use under