

plied, and concerning the adaptability of which fresh discoveries are being made almost daily. The great importance attached to the deposit in the province of Quebec is seen in the fact that several of the largest companies interested in the manufacture of asbestos products have found it to their interest to secure mines of their own in this district, among which may be mentioned the Bell Asbestos Co. and the United Asbestos Co., of London, Eng., and the great German firm of the Wertheims, of Frankfort, while American firms are also largely interested in several of the mines. In spite, therefore, of the wide geographical distribution of the mineral, it is evident that the asbestos of this country has, from its excellent qualities and from the ease with which it is obtained, risen to this prominent place, and in view of the fact that the sources of supply appear to be limited, it is doubly important that in all mining operations the minimum of waste should be permitted by the employment of the most improved machinery applicable to the purposes of mining and dressing, consistent with its economical and profitable output. This view of the case is now rapidly engaging the attention of those who possess the keenest insight into the great possibilities of this industry, and rapid strides have taken place in this direction during the last two years.

I trust that sufficient has been said in this paper to show that in asbestos we have a substance which is almost unique in the mineral kingdom—a substance of such ready adaptation to such a variety of uses that its neglect for so many years seems wonderful to those who have but superficially glanced at the subject. Doubtless, however, the great expense attendant upon its use prior to the discovery of the deposits of Thetford and Coleraine, in Quebec, is largely accountable for this state of things, and as in the case of many other substances when once they have come into general use, one wonders how the manufacturing and commercial world ever got along without them. It is possible that within the capacious bosom of mother earth there are stored up other treasures of the mineral kingdom, whose uses are also unknown at the present day, but which await the fortunate coming of some clever genius to show their great importance. A very striking case in point is seen in the enormous nickel deposits of Sudbury, and, to go a little further back, in the great petroleum wells and the reservoirs