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CONTENTS.

	Page.
Editorials—	
The Nickel Industry	501
Variation in Values With Depth	502
Michigan Copper Miners Strike	503
International Geological Congress	504
Sudbury-Cobalt-Porcupine Excursion	504
Visit to Sydney Coalfield	509
Congress Personals	511
The Reception in Ottawa	514
The Reception in Montreal	516
Improvements at the Consolidated Company's Smelting Works at Trail B. C. By E. Jacobs	517
Notes on Asbestos Veins and the Mineral Nephrite. By W. J. Woolsey	519
Coal Resources of the World	520
Annual Report of Minister of Mines of British Columbia	522
Classification of Coals. By J. M. Gordon	525
Special Correspondence	528
Personal and General	530
Statistics and Returns	531
Markets	532

THE NICKEL INDUSTRY

A very timely report on the nickel industry, with special reference to the Sudbury region, prepared by Prof. A. P. Coleman, of the University of Toronto, has just been issued by the Mines Branch, Ottawa.

During the past few years the demand for nickel has greatly increased, and nowhere is this more evident than in the Sudbury district. The two large producers, the Canadian Copper Company and the Mond Nickel Company, report their business to be in a very satisfactory state. Large profits were made in 1912, and the present year finds the producers scarcely able to meet the requirements. The Mond Company has quite recently completed and put into operation at Coniston a splendid new smelting plant. The Canadian Copper Company last year completed the task of replacing its acid converters with large capacity basic converters, and put into operation a new reverberatory plant for the treatment of fines. This company has now well under way plans for largely increasing the capacity of the smelter.

A third company, the Dominion Nickel-Copper Company, has during the past two years been making very exhaustive exploration of some other properties and has discovered a large body of ore at the Murray mine. The company had made considerable progress with plans for a smelter. Changes of ownership have taken place lately, however, and the new owners have not yet made their intentions public. For the present the preparations for erection of a smelter have been postponed.

The successful operations of these three companies has made the Sudbury district take on new life, and the confidence evidenced by the directors in their last annual reports indicates that the industry will become much greater in the near future.

With the renewed interest in the nickel field, it is very fortunate that an up-to-date volume on the industry is now available. Some years ago Dr. Coleman prepared a report for the Ontario Bureau of Mines, in which he gave a remarkably clear idea of the structural features of the nickel deposits. During the past few years Dr. Coleman has been working in the district for the Canadian Copper Company, and later for the Department of Mines. The information gained has enabled him to produce an excellent revised monograph.

The monograph is accompanied by a general geological map of the district and special maps of the more important mines, the whole representing the advances made in knowledge of the region due to three summers' work in the field.