

this nature. The processes of manufacture have already been so much improved that the price of aluminium has been reduced within forty years from its weight in gold to thirty cents per pound or less, and one ought not therefore to assume that it is impossible to find a method of producing pure corundum at low cost, if not a process to make aluminium out of an impure ore. It will certainly add greatly to the value of the corundum deposits of Ontario if they can be used in producing aluminium as well as the material for abrasives. None of the discoveries made in Ontario encourage the hope that the gem varieties are to be found, though it is not impossible that further search for these in the crystalline limestones may be rewarded with success.

In view of the extent and apparent richness of the corundum fields in the province, the Government has taken steps aimed at developing the deposits, and establishing a home industry. Regulations have been drawn up under which the mineral rights in lands lying within the two corundiferous belts have been withdrawn from sale or lease, and hereafter the mineral and mining

rights in such lands can be acquired only under the leasehold system, the rental for the first year being 60 cents, and for subsequent years 15 cents per acre. Instead of allowing speculators to take up and hold lands with a view to sell out their interests to miners and capitalists at a large profit, it is proposed that the advantage of acquiring lands upon the lowest terms shall go to the miner and manufacturer direct; and in the case of parties who will undertake to conduct mining and treating operations on the largest and completest scale, and who can furnish satisfactory assurance that they possess the requisite capital for the proposed operations—including separation of the ore from its gangue, milling for abrasive uses, manufacture of abrasive goods, and the production of aluminium—the Government may concede a preference in the selection of mineral lands.

ELECTRICITY IN PAPER.

"During its manufacture," says Le Papier (Paris), "paper is often charged with electricity by the friction of its passage over the drying cylinders and other parts of the machine—an inconvenience which makes

itself felt when the paper is used. Efforts have been made, without much success, either to extract, to prevent, or to neutralize this electric charge, by putting the roller in electric contact with the ground and by placing near the paper, at the moment when it leaves the machine, a metal point that attracts the charge. H. J. Rogers and V. M. Morday have discovered, as the result of a series of experiments, that the lack of success of these processes must be attributed in general to the inefficiency of the means employed, and especially to the fact that the paper is charged with electricity, not only on the surfaces, but also internally.

"The discharge of the electricity on the surfaces is ineffective because, after this discharge, the interior charge is eliminated slowly, and because the surface of the paper is thus subjected anew to electric influence. The inventors, having thus taken account of the causes of the ill-success of their predecessors, have reached a satisfactory result by using very large discharge points disposed in such manner as to act during a sufficient time to remove the electricity not only from the surfaces, but also from the interior."

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