

THE UTILIZATION OF MINERAL PRODUCTS

At a meeting of the Royal Canadian Institute held in Toronto Saturday evening, November 20th, Mr. Geo. T. Holloway, chairman of the Ontario Nickel Commission, delivered an address on "The Relation Between the Chemical and Metallurgical Industries." He pointed out how chemists and metallurgists working together have overcome many difficulties. The Scotch shale industry, paralyzed by the discovery of large quantities of petroleum, recovered by the utilization of paraffin wax and ammonium sulphate and is still flourishing through the assistance of chemists. The continued existence of the Cornish tin industry is largely due to obstinacy and skill in obtaining everything possible from the ore, fighting against decreased values. Basic slags, formerly a waste product, have become a large source of revenue through use in fertilizer and cement manufacture. By-products of coal have become very valuable through development of processes of saving them cheaply and making a market. Cobalt is at present produced in large quantity with the silver of the Cobalt district, but new uses must be found for it. Chemists who have investigated the properties of cobalt and its alloys have helped to find such a market.

"The future of all mining, metallurgical and chemical processes depends on the ability to treat low grade materials. Rich ores are becoming rare and the country should make use of all, just as the Chicago packer utilizes all his products. The metallurgist and chemist can work together with the miner to reduce costs."

Mr. Holloway referred to the different conditions in old and new countries. England, except for coal, is largely dependent on imports. Canada having ample supplies of most materials seeks to find and open up new markets. In doing this we should seek to keep control of raw material and complete treatment as far as possible.

The industrial success of Germany is attributed to co-ordination of chemical, metallurgical and other industries. Mr. Holloway gave some account of the development of the aniline dye, alkali and zinc-lead industry.

The sulphuric acid industry is of very great importance to metallurgists, for metallurgy depends largely on the direct use of sulphuric acid or on the sale of it. The acid is used for so many purposes that prominent men have said they could measure the industries of countries by the amount of sulphuric acid used. It is especially interesting to note that much of the acid recovery has resulted from legislation prohibiting the discharge of SO_2 into the atmosphere. The sulphuric acid and alkali industries of England are dependent largely on the recovery of by-products saved under compulsion.

VANCOUVER CHAMBER OF MINES ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Vancouver Chamber of Mines was held in the Board of Trade rooms November 10th. Despite adverse conditions, the Chamber reported itself as clear of debt and at present on a sound basis.

The report of the executive committee was submitted by Mr. John Cunliffe. In the course of his report Mr. Cunliffe said:

"The ore exhibit and library have been open to members and visitors on all business days throughout

the year, and nearly 3,000 persons took advantage of its privileges. These included miners, prospectors, owners of mineral claims, mine owners, and several investors, or agents of such, on the lookout for opportunities for investment. The data at the disposal of the Chamber were supplied in every case, together with the names and addresses of the owners of mining properties likely to meet their needs. The result of this information we are unable to say.

"Enquiries by correspondence for the year exceeded one thousand letters, etc., and covered a considerable part of the civilized world. Amongst others were letters from South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, the British Isles, Mexico, from most of the large cities of the East, Middle West of the United States and Canada, from the principal points of the Yukon, and the cities of the Pacific seaboard from Alaska to Mexico."

The following officers were elected: President, Prof. J. M. Turnbull, University of British Columbia; first vice-president, Mr. Robert R. Hedley; second vice-president, Mr. Nichol Thompson; hon. treasurer, Mr. James Ashworth; hon. secretary, Mr. John Cunliffe; and executive committee, Messrs. L. W. Shatford, M.L.A., R. S. Lennie, K.C., C. E. Cartwright, R. C. Campbell-Johnson, W. A. Blair, E. A. Haggan, A. McPhail, A. E. Hepburn, W. E. Bland, A. B. Buckworth, George H. Turner, Dr. Brock, G. S. Eldridge and James G. Powell.

BAR SILVER.

New York—There is an exceedingly strong undertone to bar silver in London and a sharp advance in the next few weeks would cause no surprise. Up to a few days ago, estimates were that £1,500,000 to £1,600,000 silver was in floating supply in London. Last week it was found that actual floating supply was less than £880,000.

India, usually a heavy purchaser of silver, has made no purchases thus far this season. Conditions in India now, except in one of the many provinces, are much more favorable, and it is expected India may come into the market again soon. China has unusually large stocks of silver owing to slack condition of business, but none is likely to find its way to London.

Trading in London is entirely on a cash basis and thus far small in character. The Bank of England has purchased a great deal of silver for coinage, and the continent has also purchased for similar purposes. These purchases have been small daily, but constant, and sooner or later will have marked effect.

In addition, there has been some curtailment of silver production, especially in Mexico, which represents about 30% of American production. This is having effect on shipments to London from New York, and American Smelting & Refining Co.'s stock of silver, melted but unsold, is understood to be sub-normal.

SENECA-SUPERIOR DIVIDEND.

The Seneca-Superior dividend declared payable December 15 will bring the mine's dividend payments to a total of 195 per cent. or \$929,848.

STEEL COMPANY OF CANADA.

Hamilton—The Steel Company of Canada is doubling its capacity at Hamilton. Earnings of the corporation are establishing new high records, but it is not likely that any statements will be issued until March of next year.