

Refractory Clays in Most Provinces

Deposits in All Provinces of Canada Except Prince Edward Island. Memorandum Issued in regard to Refractory Clays in Canada

In view of the reports of various types of clays in the area north of Cochrane a bulletin issued last week by the Dominion of Canada Mines Department, of which department, Hon. W. A. Gordon, of Halleybury, is the minister in charge, should be of interest. In regard to this bulletin or memorandum a letter from Hon. Mr. Gordon's department says:—

Clay is one of those substances generally regarded with disgust because of its adherent properties; but there are clays, and clays, and because of their wide application in industry, many varieties are regarded as a valuable asset to the country. Refractory clays are in this latter class. They are used for the manufacture of refractory products, and the high temperature to which these products are subjected call for special qualities in the clays so used.

Deposits of refractory clays occur in every province in the Dominion, with the exception of Prince Edward Island, but, unfortunately it is only occasionally that a deposit is found that possesses the requisite qualities. Also there is a dearth of readily available information in respect to Canada's refractory clay resources, and consequently no one is in a position to state just how extensive are these resources.

This need for information has been recognized by the Department of Mines, Ottawa, and a Report (Memo. Series No. 57) has been published, which is essentially a summary of information from widely scattered sources.

Mr. J. F. McMahon ceramic engineer, and author of the Report, describes the more refractory deposits in the several provinces, and here and there makes special reference to the quality of some of the clays. One such reference (though not to be regarded as typical) concerns a deposit in Labelle County, Quebec. Here the clay is associated with a discoloured kaolin. It is this discoloured material that he regards as worthy of attention. "It is apparent that the material merits a thorough investigation as to its suitability for the manufacture of refractories, being among the best possibilities in Eastern Canada," he states.

From his remarks concerning the clays of the several provinces it is very evident that Mr. McMahon feels that more attention could profitably be given to the whole subject. There is a frank admission, that while it is known that deposits occur which appear to be suited for the manufacture of refractory products, the amount of work done on them is insufficient to evaluate properly their potentialities.

The subject has not been entirely neglected, however. Mr. McMahon mentions, among others, the work being done by the Ontario Department of Mines on the refractory clay occurrences in the Moose river basin, south of James Bay, and the work of W. G. Worcester of the University of Saskatchewan in connection with the clay deposits found south and west of the city of Regina. The Ceramics Division of the Department of Mines, Ottawa, has conducted numerous tests on clays from different parts of the country and each year carries out investigations in the field.

The Report is accompanied by an exhaustive bibliography on the subject of Refractories and may be had by applying to the Director, Mines Branch, Department of Mines, Ottawa.

An Illustration of What is Meant by Using Tact

(Banffshire Journal)

We all know what tact is. One who found it difficult to define it briefly enlarged his explanations of the term by declaring that it certainly would not be tactful to start a conversation with St. Peter on the subject of poultry. The major in the club the other night also found it necessary to give at some length an explanation of what he meant:

"Speaking of tact," he said, "the best way to explain what I mean is to tell you of a simple little happening that befell a regiment I had the honour to be connected with in France in 1916. We had been taken out of the trenches and were ordered to billet in a little French village from which the Boche had just been ejected. After his beastly manner he had destroyed everything that was destroyable in that unhappy town. Well, the first thing we did was to take stock to find out if anything had escaped his notice. The two most desirable things were a milk cow and a patch of strawberries in a neglected corner of an orchard. Naturally the colonel took the milk cow and the adjutant the strawberries, and everyone was satisfied. You've got to be in the British Army. Next morning the adjutant, as the senior subordinate officer, had to go out with the men to the outskirts of the village, leaving the colonel at home in possession of the whole show. When he came back he went down to the orchard to look at his strawberries, but found someone had been there. Now, you can't call your colonel a thief—at least not in the British Army, and so he had to use tact. So he put up this notice: 'Anyone taking strawberries from this patch will have his cow shot!'"

Toronto Mail and Empire.—The ex-premier of Lithuania has been acquitted on a charge of attempted embezzlement, which strikes us as about as curious a crime as we have heard of since George Bernard Shaw's attempted blasphemy

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Ontario's Coal May Repay Investment

Chances for Profit to T. & N. O. Railway and to the Country from Investment Made North of Cochrane.

The T. & N. O. has certainly been able to rouse much interest in the country north of Cochrane. The excursion to Moosonee at the opening of the new townsite at James Bay, the visit of the members of the Legislature, and the more recent visit of the school teachers, all have resulted in very deep interest from a large number of people in the country north of Cochrane. There are so many questions asked about the country and so much interest in its possibilities and development that The Advance has been publishing references from many sources in regard to the new country mentioned. Here is one from The Northern Miner

of facts and figures and opinions that should be of interest at this time to all readers in the North. The Northern Miner says:—

"Forty millions of money has gone into the development of the Northern Ontario country north of Cochrane, for railway, port, power plants, etc. Now that the big Abitibi Canyon job is idle, the country isn't making a car of freight a week. For the railway on which 11 millions has been spent the big hope of salvation is coal. China clay would help, some. Opening of metal mines on the east shore of Hudson Bay would be a great lift, too. If there are mines there—and prospectors tell of lead, zinc, silver and good formation for gold—they are in Quebec. We would have another example of Ontario's friendliness and assistance to its neighbouring province.

"But because lignite coal is the Far North Ontario hope in a formation unfavourable to metals, there is extra importance in the recent report on the results of the application of the Welsh

process to the lignite from the beds of the Onakawana field, down the line toward Moosonee. The results indicate that the process, at a cost of \$2.95 per ton, will make a product containing only 20 p.c. moisture and 6 p.c. ash. Steam is blown through the lignite under 300 lbs. pressure, expelling much of the impurities, and much of the original 50 p.c. water. The equipment required is simple and cheap. As freight haul could be set at about a half cent per ton per mile—or \$2.50 for 500 miles—the utilization of this fuel begins to enter the realm of practical economies. It has less than half the heating quality of anthracite. It requires a larger fire box than ordinarily used but northern points that pay \$20 a ton or more for their coal can now take notice.

"The suggestion has been made—and it seems a good one—that Ontario coal should be introduced in government buildings and T. & N. O. locomotives during the testing period, and when 'all the bugs are licked out of it' it could be offered for private business

The government buys about 70,000 tons of coal annually; its own best customer. "Upwards of half a million dollars has already been spent by the Department of Mines on the northern lignite measures. The government has got its feet good and wet in the mining business but unlike many a group that has put that much money or more in a mining venture it has some chance of getting it back, and of saving the 11 million dollar James Bay Extension as well.

"There has been exposed 150 million tons of lignite; only half is recoverable because the over-burden is too heavy in places, or there is loss by dilution. Of the remaining portion, half again is lost through moisture content. The beds are at a below sea level, wet land. However, a \$3 rail haul on 35 million tons would be \$105 millions of traffic—no tiny prize. Of the 15,000 square miles that might contain lignite only 600 have been explored."

PROPER WORDING FOR USE IN ARRESTS AND OPENING COURT

The Roving Reporter, writing a bright column of notes and comments each week for The Northern News of Kirkland Lake last week had the following: "I declare this court open in the name of the King!" Chief William Shane voices this traditional reference to the British crown every Thursday morning, at the opening of police court in Kirkland Lake, and in doing so closely follows a custom that undoubtedly has its origin back in English court procedure of centuries ago. The King's name forms an important place in Canadian justice. Some years ago, in police court at Windsor, Ont., a case arose that revealed this. Provincial police were the complainants, and a woman, suspected of running a blind-pig, the defendant. The case was argued before Magistrate David M. Brodie, formerly of Sudbury, who freed the woman on a unique point of law.

home for illicit liquor, rapped at the door and gained entrance by the command, "Open in the name of the law!" The woman's lawyer argued that this was the wrong method of obtaining entrance. The police, he insisted, should have used the words, "Open in the name of the King!" And since the lawyer undoubtedly was right, the woman escaped a penalty."

Elmira Signal.—Owners of private houses who keep boarders or tourists may be charged a business tax. Hotel-keepers complain that as they are required to pay a business tax for providing meals and beds for tourists, travellers and boarders, it is nothing more than right that private houses having some revenue coming in from the same sources, should also be taxed. According to the assessment act, the assessor should enter the private homes keeping tourist, travellers and boarders in the business column and they should have to pay a percentage on the value of their buildings.