

and are found at many localities, of which Hillsboro, Albert Co., is by far the most important. The plaster beds here cover a large area and many quarries have been opened, showing faces of from thirty to one hundred feet, but without revealing the base of the deposit. The larger part of the rock is a pure white opaque gypsum of exceedingly fine grain, but with this are to be found in places all the varieties enumerated above. Anhydrite, or "hard plaster," is irregularly distributed through or with the softer gypsum, but large bodies free from such admixture are met with. Selenite or crystallized gypsum, is of rare occurrence.

The Hillsboro quarries are distant about two miles from the village of Hillsboro, the place of shipment on the right bank of the Petitcodiac river at the head of the Bay of Fundy, and at this point are extensive works for the treatment of the material brought thither by rail from the quarries. The rough rock is ground and directly shipped as land plaster, or, in the case of the finer grades, is then subjected to calcination, producing plaster of Paris. The works have been in operation since 1854, and the shipment to the United States of crude gypsum was in 1897 59,334 tons. Manufactured plaster has been shipped to the same destination during the last fifteen years at the rate of about 20,000 barrels per year, the value averaging about eighty cents per barrel. The value of crude gypsum delivered to vessels on the Petitcodiac river, ranges from 60 cents to \$2.50 per ton, according to quality. About 225 hands are employed in the works and quarries.

The analysis of the Hillsboro plaster shows 98.88 of pure gypsum. Among the uses to which it is put, in addition to its employment as land plaster, fertilizer and plaster of Paris, may be mentioned the preparation of terra-alba and paper fillers, of artificial marbles, and its use in dentistry. For the latter only the very best is suitable, and the Hillsboro rock outrivals all competitors.

The United States duty on manufactured plaster is \$2.25 per ton, and were it not for the superior quality of the latter, would be well nigh prohibitive.

GYPSUM.

Plaster Rock, Victoria County.

On the Tobique river, in Victoria county, are large beds of gypsum, which have for many years been used for fertilizing purposes by the farmers of Carleton county and Aroostook county, Maine. The rock is granular or fibrous, of greyish and reddish colors, but much less pure than the rock of Hillsboro, and not suitable for the higher uses to which the latter is applied.