

Magnesite Deposits of Grenville District, Argenteuil County, Quebec.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

As a consequence of the present war the supplies of numerous mineral materials formerly imported into Canada and United States from abroad have been partly or completely cut off and for this reason special attention has been directed to the investigation of deposits of these minerals occurring on this continent. Among the minerals of this class one of the most important is the magnesium carbonate, magnesite, the world's supply of which was formerly derived almost entirely from deposits in Austria-Hungary and Greece. The restricted importation of this material, especially during a period of unprecedented activity in the metallurgical industries, has brought about a complete transformation in the market conditions in America for magnesite.

The almost complete dependence of the American consumer on foreign sources of supply of magnesite prior to the war and the readjustment which is now taking place is indicated by the statistics of importation and domestic production in the table on pages 12 and 16. In 1913, the year preceding the outbreak of war, 172,591 short tons of calcined magnesite and 22,872 tons of crude magnesite were consumed in United States, of which (only 9,632 tons of crude) less than 3 per cent was produced at home; whereas in 1915 the total consumption of magnesite in United States was 26,574 short tons of calcined and 80,267 short tons of crude, of which approximately 23 per cent was domestic production. Likewise, the production of magnesite in Canada increased from 515 tons valued at \$3,335 in 1913 to 55,413 tons having a value of \$563,829 in 1916.

Up to the present time (March, 1917) the increase in the domestic production in North America has been derived almost entirely from Canadian deposits situated a few miles north of Ottawa river in the Grenville district, Quebec, and from scattered occurrences in the state of California in United States. Though the Canadian magnesite contains more lime than the California magnesite and in that respect is of inferior