

Manitoba.—The production of building brick in Manitoba in 1910 was 75,834 thousand valued at \$746,704, as compared with 59,110 thousand valued at \$544,548; an increase of 37 per cent in the value of production.

Mr. Joseph Keele, who is associated with Dr. H. Ries in an investigation of the clay resources of Canada, reports:—

“About twenty-six brickyards are in operation in Manitoba; of these about four produce dry press bricks, and the rest, with the exception of one stiff mud machine at Alsip's yard in Winnipeg, turn out soft mud bricks.

“The burning is most easily done in scove kilns, the fuel being generally dry poplar wood, but a few of the more progressive plants have down draft kilns and burn coal. The season's output varies from 500,000 to 12,000,000 in the various yards, the average length of the season being about 150 days.

“The principal difficulties met with by brickmakers using surface clays are: the liability of the green brick to air check while on the drying racks, and in judging the proper degree of burning. Calcareous clays have their points of incipient vitrification and fusion so close together that quantities of the brick near the arches are melted, while the upper layers, which receive the least amount of heat, are under-burned and soft, consequently there is great waste. It seems impossible to avoid this in scove kilns, but there is far less waste, and a greater economy of fuel in down draft kilns.

“If the clay is mined in the autumn, and allowed to weather in a stockpile over winter, subsequent air checking in the drying racks will be considerably reduced, the clay will be easier to work, and it will be available for use earlier in the spring; but only in one instance that came under my notice was this method taken advantage of.

“There was a great scarcity of brick in Manitoba during the early part of the building season of 1910. No brick were left over from the season of 1909, and on June 1 there was not a kiln of brick yet burned in the Province. On the night of June 2, about 2,000,000 brick were frozen on the drying racks, and consequently destroyed.

“Common brick usually sell in Winnipeg for \$11 per thousand, but this summer they sold as high as \$15, and as the local yards were unable to supply the demand large quantities were imported. Most of the pressed brick used for facing buildings is imported.

“All the structural hollow ware and sewerpipe used in the Province is imported, but the use of paving brick is prohibited by the high freight rates on such a heavy commodity.”

Saskatchewan.—Returns from eleven operating firms show a production in 1910 of 14,733 thousand brick, valued at \$160,850, as compared with 14,417 thousand valued at \$144,316 in 1909.