

ment they possessed, was smeared with a mixture of oil or grease and ochre, *odemet* as they termed it. Besides the red and brownish clays and marls, I have frequently seen very fine clays of bluish and drab colors, which would, I have no doubt, make excellent pigments. Whiting could easily be obtained from the deposits of shell marl mentioned above. I have seen a deposit of fine white gypsum in a plastic state, which, when taken out and moulded, then dried in the sun, become quite hard. This material should, I think, be very applicable for whitewashing or liming purposes.

REFRACTORY MATERIALS.

Graphite and plumbago have already been mentioned. Very pure steatite, talc, soapstone, and other varieties of rocks, suitable for furnace lining, are abundant. Good specimens of these are to be seen at the Museum here, as also ground steatite, applicable as a lubricant. No *bona fide* attempts at working any of these materials have yet been made. Mica is quite a common mineral throughout the Laurentian Series, but nowhere in Newfoundland, so far as I am aware, has it yet been come across in plates large enough to be of much economic importance. It is, however, known to occur in abundance, and in large sheets, on the Newfoundland portion of Labrador; good specimens of which are in our Museum. Steatite, also, comes from the same region, and a very good variety of potstone. Asbestos, or chrysotile, deserves special mention, as it is likely to prove of very considerable economic importance ere long. This mineral has been recognized amongst the serpentine deposits of the island in many localities. It occurs in strings and threads of fine silky texture, traversing the masses of serpentine in all directions. Not until quite recently, however, has the attention of capitalists been called to its existence here, and fairly enlisted in its development. The comparative scarcity of good material in America and the not distant prospect of the Canadian deposits of this valuable material giving out led to the large manufacturing firms of Chalmers Spence & Co. of Boston and the John's Company of New York in sending persons to prospect in this country. Certain properties known to contain asbestos in the vicinity of Port-au-Port and Bay of Islands were leased by them and operations commenced by costeaning the surface, laying bare the deposits, and running open cuts into the side of the serpentine ridge.