

## Exports of Canadian Asbestos.

The following returns compiled by THE REVIEW from the Monthly Statements of the Department of Customs, show the exports of Canadian Asbestos during the ten months ended 31st October last. As pointed out in a recent issue of THE REVIEW, this industry, which is confined to the Eastern Townships of the Province of Quebec, has been for many years one of the most prosperous of the mining industries of the Dominion. About three thousand persons are employed in the mines and mills, and all the properties of any consequence are earning handsome profits for their owners. The returns show that the year now closing will rank among the most successful since the industry was established in the early eighties.

	Great Britain		U. S. A.		Germany		Other Countries		Total	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
Jan. . .	229	\$23,705	1,190	\$49,455	100	\$2,985	40	\$860	1,559	\$68,005
Feb. . .	51	460	1,387	44,669	92	3,360	36	5,480	1,566	53,969
Mar. . .	155	5,495	1,713	49,322	...	...	141	5,363	2,009	60,180
April . .	221	6,595	1,950	57,168	39	3,120	190	10,725	2,400	77,908
May . .	948	46,550	910	31,275	117	1,945	48	5,610	2,023	85,380
June . .	100	1,750	3,234	80,153	17	263	55	3,855	3,406	86,021
July . .	116	5,701	1,264	34,945	69	1,505	269	8,585	1,718	50,716
Aug. . .	...	...	4,097	112,842	...	...	312	12,960	4,409	125,802
Sept. . .	230	3,450	2,383	72,085	70	1,500	...	...	2,683	77,035
Oct. . .	632	32,985	2,184	67,608	535	8,612	124	3,300	3,475	112,525
Total	2,682	\$126,991	20,312	\$590,522	1,039	\$23,290	1,215	\$56,738	25,248	\$797,541

During the same period in 1901 the exports amounted to 18,108 tons, of an estimated value of \$428,397; the total exports for the twelve months exceeding 40,000 tons, of a value of about a million and a half dollars. Judging by the returns published above, the year 1902 is to take rank as the banner year in the history of asbestos production in this "or any other" country.

During the fiscal year, ended 30th June last, the figures given by the Trade and Navigation Returns show the exports to have been:—

To	No. I.		No. II.		No. III.	
	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$
Great Britain . . . .	867	119,888	507	23,865	2,714	57,721
Belgium . . . . .	315	29,600	112	4,062	400	8,250
France . . . . .	239	25,490	56	3,330	70	1,425
Germany . . . . .	285	33,605	367	14,836	1,618	41,427
Italy . . . . .	173	15,540	33	2,150	263	6,250
United States . . . .	1,630	144,860	1,284	48,948	22,139	549,955
Total . . . . .	3,509	368,983	2,359	97,191	27,204	665,028

It is worthy of remark that the production of this mineral in the United States during 1901 amounted to only 747 short tons, valued at \$13,498, as compared with 1,054 tons, valued at \$16,310, in 1900, and 681 tons, valued at \$11,740, in 1899.

New and varied uses are constantly being devised for asbestos. Where it is used as an ingredient in fireproof paints, for wall plaster, as boiler coverings, as packing in the manufacture of fireproof safes, and for nearly all purposes in which nonconductivity of heat and not strength of fiber is the important factor, the amphibole variety can be used. On the other hand, where strength of fiber is an essential quality as well as nonconductivity of heat, it is the chrysotile variety the product entirely of Canada, that is used, as in the manufacture of cloth, rope, felt, boards, tubes, washers, blocks of various shapes, etc.

In the periodical Stone, for February, 1901, there was described a test, made by the British Fire Prevention Committee, of the fireproof material called gypsin. This material is composed of plastic hydraulic lime, sand, and asbestos compressed into bricks. In testing its fire-resisting properties, a partition 10 feet long by 7 feet, 9 inches

wide was built of gypsin bricks laid in hydraulic mortar, with joints a quarter of an inch thick. The side of this partition, which was erected in the test hut, after having been coated with a thin layer of fire clay, was exposed for the space of one hour to a heat which arose during that time to 2050° F. This high temperature had no effect on the gypsin bricks, and throughout the test the temperature of the outer surface of the partition was never sufficiently high to cause the ignition of a match.

## Our Pyrites Deposits.

This is a mineral to which prospectors have given comparatively little attention; and yet, as a source of sulphur for the manufacture of sulphuric acid, sulphite &c., it is of great importance. Formerly native sulphur was used almost exclusively for such manufactures, but the limited supply and the growing demand have driven up the price to and beyond the point at which it pays to use iron pyrites. The production of sulphur in the United States in 1901 was 7,690 short tons, and during the same year 175,210 long tons were imported. In the same year the United States produced 234,825 long tons of pyrites and imported 403,706 tons. During the eleven years 1891 to 1901, pyrites displaced sulphur for the manufacture of sulphuric acid to the extent of about 200 per cent. The value of the pyrites imported by the United States in 1901 is \$1,415,149. The major part of it is used in making paper pulp by the acid sulphite process. Here is where this matter concerns us. Canada is destined to become—is becoming,—the great pulp producer for the world. As spruce forests are known to be of great extent, and as exploration is extended and made more minute new areas are being discovered. We are also well provided with waterways for transportation, and with water powers to drive mills. It is not so generally known that we have valuable deposits of pyrites. Those Canadians who are interested in pulp-wood lands should make it their business to keep the ownership of these deposits in the country. Our enterprising neighbors in the United States have already secured some of the largest and most easily accessible bodies of pyrites in Ontario and Quebec, and in most cases are shipping the mineral across the border for the manufacture of sulphuric acid. It may come to be a repetition of the old story of the pulp-wood of Ontario, but with this difference, that the wood is now kept in the province by legislation,—a policy which could hardly be adopted for pyrites. It is true that we may reasonably hope for a process which will put at our disposal for the sulphite process the unlimited quantities of sulphur in the copper-nickel ores of the Sudbury district; but in the meantime, 'a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.' The time has come, too, when the manufacture of sulphuric acid, now in its very early infancy in Canada, should be extended to meet the growing demand for this chemical. In both these directions enterprising investors may safely reach out.

**The Anglo-Klondyke Mining Company.**—The directors, in submitting their second annual report, with balance sheet and profit and loss account, for the year ending 30th September, 1902, state:

From the amount of available net profit, viz., £28,467 17s. 2d., the directors recommend the declaration of a dividend of 20 per cent. (free of income tax) on the ordinary shares, payable to all shareholders registered on the 30th November, 1902. This will absorb £24,659 12s., leaving a balance to be carried forward of £3,808 5s. 2d.

The board are very pleased to be in a position to report a much more favorable condition of affairs than last year.

The share capital is now all issued, the shares which were due at the date of the last general meeting to the Consolidated Mines Selection Company, Ltd., and to Mr. Joseph McGillivray, having been allotted.

With reference to the personnel of the board, Mr. J. M. Wilson has resigned, having left England to take up an appointment in South Africa, and Mr. A. F. Nichol has been elected in his place.