

which time the growth of the industry has been constant and rapid, the output increasing from 50 tons only in 1878 to probably not far from 8,000 tons in 1890, while the prices have also advanced within the last year or two at a like wonderful rate, till now No. 1 Quebec asbestos commands probably as good a price in the market as the best Italian, while No. 3 brings nearly as much as was obtained for No. 1 six years ago.

According to the Ontario Commission's Report, actinolite mining in that province was commenced in 1881, since which time about 3,000 tons have been extracted. This material, however, does not command the price of the Thetford mineral, selling at about the same figure as the waste or No. 4 from that locality, it being used almost entirely for asbestos roofing, for which purpose it is mixed with tar, as already stated, and then applied in a coating of about half an inch in thickness. The waste from the mines of the Eastern Townships, and formerly the output graded No. 3, was at one time quite extensively used for the same purpose.

The asbestos of Templeton was probably first mined in 1883, but the industry has never proved very remunerative, owing to the limited nature of the deposit and the smallness of the veins, so that for some years mining was entirely abandoned. During the last season, however, operations have been started anew, and some very excellent fibre taken out, it is claimed at a profit. The conditions under which the asbestos occurs in this district are distinct from those which are found both at Kaladar in Ontario and in the serpentine areas of the Eastern Townships, the serpentine in which the asbestos veins occur being intimately associated with crystalline limestone, and in many places the latter is highly serpentinous. The fibre of the asbestos is distinguished from that of Thetford in having a marked pearly and wavy lustre, in being generally lighter colored, and by an entire absence of impurities in the form of iron grains. Sufficient study of these peculiar rocks has not yet been made to pronounce definitely upon their probable importance, but when the deposits are made more accessible considerable mining will be done, as these appear to be quite extensive.

As for the uses of asbestos, these have multiplied with exceeding rapidity. The early history has been briefly stated, in so much that