

this respect far exceeding any material heretofore employed for this purpose. It has, however, been found of almost too slight consistency to possess great value for textile purposes by itself, but this has been overcome by combining the spun fibres of the mineral with threads of cotton or flax, and in the museum of the *Canadian Mining Review* can now be seen a complete suit of clothing from helmet to shoes such as is supplied to the firemen of Paris and other cities on the Continent, dressed in which a man can walk with almost absolute impunity into the hottest flames. The face in this case is protected by a very fine wire gauze which enables the wearer to see dimly and to respire as well as the dense atmosphere which he has to penetrate will permit. Besides the true asbestos of commerce, other varieties known as mountain cork, mountain leather, and mountain wood are met with, but these have not yet been found adapted for use in the arts or manufactures, or at least not to any very great extent.

The mineral which is produced in Canada at the present day under the head of asbestos, is in reality not asbestos proper, but a form of serpentine called chrysotile. This occurs in veins in certain portions of the great belt of serpentine rocks of the Eastern Townships of Quebec, though in the serpentines of the Laurentian also this mineral is sometimes found in small veins, but not as yet in quantity to be economically available, though subsequent exploration in this direction may disclose workable deposits there as well. In the Laurentian rocks of certain areas, however, the variety actinolite sometimes forms hilly masses of considerable size, which has been mined for several years, and while not as yet found to be suited for the manufacture of millboard, and the finer qualities of steam packing, answers admirably for cements, paints, etc., in the same way as the tremolite of the State of New York; these deposits of actinolite are therefore highly important, and will without doubt increase rapidly in value.