

the making of over 3000 tests last year; it will be obvious why I must restrict myself to examples, but I shall try to select these in such a way as to illustrate the different branches of industry and commerce touched by our multifarious activities.

#### Mining

Magnesian products - The large magnesian deposits found near Grenville, Que., in 1900, were not developed to any extent until the war cut off the supplies of magnesian products from Europe. In 1918, over a million dollars worth of crude rock and dead-burned clinker was shipped, mainly to the United States for use as a refractory in open-hearth steel furnaces. When the war ended, the European product, considered superior because of its low content of lime, again became available and, with favourable exchange rates to help it, practically killed the trade in the Canadian product. After exhausting their own efforts to maintain the business, the Canadian producers sought the aid of the Government, which assigned to the National Research Council the task of investigating the companies' technical problems. That was in 1925, and it is interesting to note that this was the first research undertaken in the Council's own laboratories (as distinct from the many researches which had already been assisted by the Council in various university laboratories). The investigations led to the development of a variety of new products and methods, including an improved refractory for steel furnaces, a chemically bonded refractory for general use in metallurgy, a special re-