

paying quantities throughout an extensive region. Works for the manufacture of superphosphate have been established at Brockville and Smith's Falls, and at the latter town the annual product of fertilizers is now about 500 tons. Several mica mines have been worked during recent years in the eastern part of the Province, the most important of which are in Lanark and Frontenac. The Smith & Lacey mine near Sydenham, in the latter county, has yielded a large quantity of amber-colored mica, some crystals of which are seven feet square. The market for it is found in Canada, the United States, England, France and Germany. Actinolite has been found in large quantities in the county of Hastings, and a mill for preparing it has been in operation at Bridgewater for a number of years. In its crushed state, when mixed with coal tar and pitch, or asphalt, it makes an excellent material for fire-proof roofing. The gypsum quarries of the Grand river valley, in the counties of Brant and Haldimand, have been worked for more than forty years. Mills for grinding the rock have been erected at different points, and about 6,000 tons of land plaster are manufactured annually. Within the last three or four years calcining works have been established at Paris and near Cayuga, where the manufacture of calcined plaster and alabastine is carried on. Reference has already been made to the existence of natural gas in the counties of Essex and Welland, and to beds of clay for the manufacture of pressed brick in the district north of the western end of Lake Ontario. It is not thought that the natural gas is to be found in very great quantity. Certainly none of the wells yet put down have proved to be "gushers" like some of those which have been bored in Pennsylvania and Ohio. But the supply appears to be ample to encourage its utilization for illuminating purposes in the towns within easy reach of it, and the opinion is confidently entertained by many that it is likely to prove as lasting as even the great wells on the other side of Lake Erie. A well which was put down a few months ago near the railway, three miles west of Port Colborne, furnishes all the fuel required for two large lime-kilns, and it is stated that lime