



AT BLACK LAKE, P.Q.

Geologists looking for new minerals in the asbestos bearing rocks.

The year 1912 therefore shows a new high record for both tonnage and total value. However, it must be pointed out that although the tonnage in 1912 increased 8.75 per cent. as compared with 1911, the total value only increased 1.07 per cent.

There is an increase in the demand for long fibre asbestos and a corresponding decrease for the lower grades. Spinning stock and shingle stock, which must be of clear and fibrous asbestos, find a much readier market than paper and mill-board stock, which are now much more difficult to get rid of. For this reason only the mines which are able to produce an appreciable quantity of the better stocks were operated this year. As a consequence of this state of things all the mines of the Broughton district were shut down during the whole of 1912. The serpentine rock in this district contains as a rule a high percentage of asbestos; this, however, is not in veins, but in the shape of short fibre dis-

seminated throughout the rock. In the Robertson district, where the asbestos rock is of an intermediate nature between that of Thetford and that of Broughton, two mines were worked part of the time.

In Thetford and Black Lake, there was a serious shortage of labour which somewhat hampered operations.

One of the important features of the year in the asbestos industry has been the reorganization of two of the large operating companies. In both cases, the principle adopted in the reorganization has been the reduction of the bonds by converting part of these into common stock, thereby reducing the fixed charges. In these reorganizations, the names of two companies, the Amalgamated Asbestos Company and the Black Lake Asbestos Corporation, have been changed respectively to Asbestos Corporation of Canada, Ltd., and the Black Lake Asbestos and Chrome Company, Ltd.



Geologists examining asbestos veins at Black Lake, P.Q.

Fred. Searls, Nevada; A. C. Lawson, California; C. P. Berkey, New York; J. B. Murray, London; Chas. Palache, Harvard.