

CHROMITE.

Chromite or *chrome iron ore*, when pure, consists of a compound of ferrous oxide and chromic oxide, represented by the formula $\text{FeO.Cr}_2\text{O}_3$. It occurs in peridotite and serpentine rocks, in irregular masses or disseminated in small grains which must be won by crushing and concentrating. It is also found in sand resulting from the disintegration of these rocks.

Chromite is used in the chemical industry for making chromic acid and the various salts of chromium, which in turn are used for making paint and ink pigments, and other purposes.

It is also employed as a source of chromium in the manufacture of chrome steel. In this case the iron content is also utilized. Chromite is very basic in chemical reaction and highly refractory, suiting it to the manufacturing of fire bricks for certain metallurgical purposes, and also for the lining of basic open hearth steel furnaces, the only use to which it is put in Canada at present.

When used for refractory purposes silica is an objectionable impurity and should be reduced by concentration to at most five per cent.

It costs about \$18 a ton delivered in Ontario.

Amount of chromite used in the manufacturing industries, as reported by the consumers:—

Location	No. of firms reporting consumption	Domestic	Imported
		Tons	Tons
Maritime Provinces.....	—	—	—
Quebec.....	—	—	—
Ontario.....	1	—	50
Prairie Provinces.....	—	—	—
British Columbia.....	—	—	—
Canada (Total).....	1	—	50