

ASBESTOS MINING IN QUEBEC IN 1912*

By Theo C. Denis, Superintendent of Mines.

Asbestos in 1912 heads the list of mineral products of the province. After passing through a rather critical period the asbestos industry is now regaining its balance, and the outlook for the future is bright. The

following table gives details of the production of asbestos in the Province of Quebec during the year 1912:

Production of Asbestos for the Year 1912.

Qualities.	No. of Men. Employed.	Wages Paid.	Shipments.			Stock on Hand.	
			Tons.	Value.	Aver. value per ton.	Tons.	Value.
Crude No. 1			1,941	510,785	263.16	867	221,215
Crude No. 2			3,766	379,445	100.76	2,867	310,596
Mill stock No. 1			3,682	237,203	64.42	2,370	137,106
Mill stock No. 2			32,689	1,018,960	31.17	8,234	301,774
Mill stock No. 3			69,097	912,691	13.21	6,838	131,515
Totals	2,910	1,377,444	111,175	\$3,059,084.	27.52	24,176	1,102,206
Quantity of rock mined, 1,870,608 tons.							

For the two previous years, 1911 and 1910, the figures are given in the tables below:

Production of Asbestos for Year 1911.

	Shipments.			Stock on Hand. on Dec. 31st, 1910.	
	Tons.	Value.	A. value per ton.	Tons.	Value.
Crude No. 1	1,400	\$ 388,224	\$277.30	1,358	\$ 360,304
Crude No. 2	3,382	382,980	113.68	3,368	431,548
Mill Stock No. 1	6,340	415,559	65.54	3,794	207,403
Mill Stock No. 2	35,991	1,091,684	30.33	12,272	379,523
Mill Stock No. 3	55,111	747,759	13.57	12,959	204,298
Totals	102,224	\$3,026,306	29.60	33,751	\$1,583,076
Quantity of rock mined during 1911, tons, 1,759,064.					

Production of Asbestos for Year 1910.

	Shipments.			Stock on Hand. on Dec. 31st, 1910.	
	Tons.	Value.	A. value per ton.	Tons.	Value.
Crude No. 1	1,817	\$ 471,649	\$259.57	1,763	\$ 447,227
Crude No. 2	1,612	196,382	121.82	3,181	440,884
Mill Stock No. 1	10,313	627,635	60.88	4,938	313,053
Mill Stock No. 2	44,793	1,141,374	25.48	24,417	612,065
Mill Stock No. 3	22,070	230,789	10.46	6,920	99,694
Totals	80,605	\$2,667,829	\$33.10	41,159	\$1,921,923
Quantity of rock mined during year 1910, tons, 2,035,705.					

The classification adopted by the Quebec Mines Branch is an arbitrary one. Each mine has its own grading, and there is no uniformity between the products of the different mines. In the tables above given the values of the various grades have been grouped as follows:

Crude No. 1—Hand-cobbed asbestos valued at \$200 a ton and over.

Crude No. 2—Hand-cobbed asbestos valued at less than \$200 a ton.

Mill Stock No. 1—Products of mechanical separation valued at \$45 and over.

Mill Stock No. 3—Valued at less than \$20.

Mill Stock No. 3—Valued at less than \$20.

It is interesting to note that in 1911 and 1912, the shipments exceeded the output of the mining and milling operations for each respective year. This shows a steady evacuation of the stock on hand which had accumulated during 1910, when an abnormal production had caused a congestion of the market.

Therefore the balance between the output and shipments is gradually readjusting itself, and as the consumption is steadily increasing, the future of the industry is hopeful.

The following table shows the growth of the asbestos industry since the year 1900:

Year.	Tons.	Value.
1900.....	21,408.....	\$ 719,416
1901.....	33,466.....	1,274,315
1902.....	30,634.....	1,161,970
1903.....	29,261.....	916,970
1904.....	35,479.....	1,186,970
1905.....	48,960.....	1,476,450
1906.....	61,675.....	2,143,653
1907.....	61,985.....	2,455,919
1908.....	65,157.....	2,551,596
1909.....	63,965.....	2,296,584
1910.....	80,605.....	2,667,829
1911.....	102,224.....	3,026,306
1912.....	111,175.....	3,059,084

*Extracts from Report of Mining Observations in Quebec, 1912. Photos by Reginald E. Hore.