

## QUEBEC ASBESTOS FIELD.

Some new developments in the Quebec asbestos fields are recorded in the latest report of the Geological Survey branch. New concentrating mills have been completed and put into operation at the Bell, the Jacobs, and the Black Lake Consolidated Mines. The maximum capacity of these mills is from 800 tons to 1,000 tons of rock per day. The B. and A. Asbestos Company at Robertson, and the Berlin Asbestos Company near Leeds station, have built 4 cyclone mills which are also in operation on their respective properties; while the Belmina Consolidated Company, having acquired the property formerly owned by the Asbestos Mining and Manufacturing Company at Chrysotile, has re-equipped the mill and mine, and has renewed operations in both.

### Asbestos at Numerous Points.

The Thetford Asbestos syndicate of Montreal has recently done some substantial development on lot 24, range A, Coleraine. A pit 60 feet by 50 feet has been carried to a depth of 45 feet. As far as could be judged from the walls, the rock carries a workable quantity of asbestos, an appreciable portion of which is crude. There is a boss of granite near the pit, and exposures in the vicinity show asbestos at numerous points, over an area of some 10 or 12 acres.

The present equipment consists of a cable derrick, a hoist, one steam drill, two pumps, and a 65 horse-power boiler; but an adequate mining and hoisting equipment is expected soon to be installed, and a concentrating mill built. The right-of-way has been obtained for a tram-line to connect the property with the Quebec Central Railway, less than 2 miles distant.

### In Commercial Quantities.

The property is situated near the eastern side, and in the northern part of the serpentine area, which contains the principal mines of Black Lake. Asbestos is reported to have been discovered in commercial quantities on lots 2, 3, and 4, range B, Coleraine. There was no opportunity found during the season to verify the report.

One of the most important developments for the asbestos industry, however, is the establishment by the Asbestos Manufacturing Company of large works at Lachine, Quebec. This plant—the only one of the kind in Canada—is designed to manufacture all classes of asbestos goods. When completed the factory will have a capacity to consume about 1,000 tons of asbestos fibre per month. The plant was built by and is being operated under the management of Mr. G. R. Smith, long the manager of the Bell Asbestos mine. A more complete description of the plant and process will be given in a later report.

In the district examined this season few occurrences of asbestos have been found. On lot 22, range VI, Melbourne, about 100 feet south of the Melbourne slate quarry, a small pit was sunk some 35 years ago in the dump, of which there is a small amount of fairly good milling rock. The surrounding rock is drift covered, and the pit or shaft is partially filled with debris. It is locally reported that a small shipment of crude asbestos was made from these workings by the operators of the Melbourne slate quarry about 1876, and which was probably the first asbestos shipped from Canada.

Near Key pond some prospecting and development was done by Mr. R. H. Fletcher of Sherbrooke, and others, during the past season, but no very definite results were obtained.

### Prospected Twenty Years Ago.

The principal development of the district has been made by Mr. John McCaw on lot 26, range IX, Brompton township, near Brompton lake. On this property, which was somewhat extensively prospected some twenty years ago, work was resumed in the spring of 1910. Asbestos is exposed in pits that have been opened in different parts of the property, over a distance of half a mile. In general, it may be said that the contents of the wider veins are usually hard and brittle, but that the smaller veins contain a quality of fibre that may be used. More complete development of the property probably awaits better facilities for transportation. A little slip fibre has been obtained in the first range of Stukely, south of Long pond. Except in the localities mentioned the rock of this district usually contains too much pyroxene to yield an asbestos-bearing serpentine.

## FOREST PRODUCTS OF CANADA.

### Value of Wood Pulp Exported—Dutiable Imports from Great Britain Increased—Forest Area of the Dominion.

The most definite and complete statistics in relation to forest products are those in regard to import and export furnished by the trade returns. These show that in 1868 the total unmanufactured wood products exported were valued at \$18,742,625, while in 1908 they reached the sum of \$44,170,470. Manufactured wood products in 1908 amounted to \$4,997,795, making a total for 1908 of \$49,168,265, says Mr. A. H. D. Ross, M.A., M.F., of the Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, in a comprehensive report recently issued.

Of the unmanufactured wood products \$12,956,521 went to other parts of the British Empire, including \$11,843,094 to Great Britain; \$27,470,574 went to the United States; \$401,280 went to the Continent of Europe; \$2,068,246 to South America and the West Indian Islands; \$112,415 to Mexico, and \$163,500 to China and Japan. The United States is a customer for over 60 per cent. and Great Britain for over 25 per cent. The square timber trade declined from 651,736 tons valued at \$4,188,862 in 1868, to 59,833 tons valued at \$1,520,005 in 1908. The average price per cubic foot increased from 16 cents to 63 cents. Timber was prepared in this way for shipping to Great Britain and the chief advantages were the removal of sapwood and the greater convenience over round logs in lading vessels. It is a decided advantage to have this wasteful method replaced by the shipping of deals to the British market.

In 1890 the value of the pulpwood exported was \$80,005. Much the greater proportion in each year has gone to the United States, and since 1903 the whole export has been to that country. In 1904 the export to the United States was 479,238 cords valued at \$1,788,049, and in 1908, 901,861 cords valued at \$4,655,371. From these figures it will be seen that in five years the quantity of pulpwood exported from Canada to the United States has almost doubled, and that its value has increased 160 per cent. The increase per cord was from \$3.73 to \$5.16. The last report, that of 1907, in regard to consumption of pulpwood in the United States shows a total of 3,661,176 cords, of which the Canadian product formed about one-fourth.

### Value of Wood Pulp Exported.

The value of wood pulp exported in 1890 was \$168,180, and in 1908 \$4,037,852; the value of the export to the United States being \$3,545,530, and to Great Britain \$485,199. The quantity of mechanically ground pulp exported was 4,027,939 cwt., and of chemically prepared pulp 783,224 cwt.

The total export of wood products would be about three billion feet, board measure.

Notwithstanding the fact that Canada exports forest products largely, there is a considerable import, mainly from the United States. The total value of the imports increased from \$2,412,572 in 1874 to \$12,032,595 in 1908. For the ten years, 1897 to 1906 inclusive, the total imports amounted to \$59,934,770, \$57,520,731 coming from the United States, \$919,398 from Great Britain, and the remaining \$1,494,541 from other countries. For this period 94 per cent. of imports were from the United States, two per cent. from Great Britain, and four per cent. from other countries.

In recent years the western prairie provinces have imported considerable quantities of lumber and other construction material from some of the western states, particularly Minnesota. In 1905 the import of pine from Minnesota and Wisconsin was 125,000,000 feet, board measure, but this fell in 1907 to 62,642,941 feet. In the older provinces there is a considerable import of hardwoods, such as oak, ash, walnut, hickory, cherry, etc., which is largely due to the denudation of the hardwood districts in south-western Ontario and elsewhere. The import of oak for 1908 was 54,542,685 feet board measure, but this was exceeded by pitch pine (under which are included several species of pine from the southern states) with an import of 68,946,389 feet, board measure. The import includes also such manufactured articles as furniture, veneers, hubs, spokes, staves, dressed lumber, ties, lath, shingles, etc.

### Dutiable Imports From Great Britain Increased.

Between 1874 and 1906 dutiable imports from Great Britain increased from \$30,450 to \$106,563, whilst free imports varied greatly. From the United States dutiable