

ture of handkerchiefs and a few garments which were used in scientific lectures and representations of all sorts to illustrate, in a pleasant way, the non-conductibility of this silicate, which serves to-day for the manufacture of paints, cements, putties, wall-papers, mill boards, parchments and cloths. Mixed with tripoli it is used for packing and insulating steam and other pipes, as well as for lining safes. It is also used in the manufacture of drop-curtains and the sceneries in theatres, of suits for firemen, of safety ladders, of belts used in chemical works, and the last but not the least in the making of pipes.

Soapstone, which is more or less compact talc, is found in many places in the Townships, and is very often associated with serpentine. When pure and compact this mineral is much used as a refractory material for lining furnaces, especially those destined for anthracite. From its softness it is readily cut with knives and saws into the required shape, and it is infusible in any ordinary furnace heat. It is also used in the construction of small portable furnaces, and of open stoves, which are made of plates of it held together by iron bands and rods. Culinary vessels are made of it, and it has also been bored for water-pipes, and for the lining of cisterns for acid and alkaline liquids. When very strongly heated, soapstone loses the small quantity of combined water which it contains, and becomes much harder and susceptible of a polish. It may then be colored by various solutions, and it has been used in this manner for the manufacture of buttons and of some other small articles. Jets for gas-burners are also made of this hardened soapstone, and have the advantage of not being liable to rust or corrode. When reduced to powder its softness and unctuousity have caused it to be used, like plumbago, as a lubricator, and when mixed with a small proportion of white lead it forms a hard cement-like pigment, which is claimed to equal in resistance many of the more expensive fire-proof paints. It is also well adapted for a filler in the manufacture of paper. Slate pencils and tailors' chalk are also made of it.

Among the rocks of the Quebec group, in Eastern Canada, argillites fit for roofing slates occur in many places and have been successfully worked.

In the Township of Melbourne these slates, which are in contact with dark-green serpentine, afford excellent roofing slates, and are