

to gold mining. A dozen mines were operated at a loss. Others reported a profit per ton of 25 cents to \$1.00.

Calculating the value of the refined gold at £5, 17 shillings and 6 pence, the October output was at the rate of £43,069,644 per annum, without which exchange would be more demoralized than it is. Of course, as the Bankers contend, this gold is to be had by those who can buy it, and is available when they want it. American producers have talked of a Gold Bank for their own purposes, and yet the last word would rest with Threadneedle and Wall streets. Possibly a tax on gold diverted to jewelry could be allocated for the relief of lower grade properties. There, again, the special provision might prove obnoxious as a precedent.

Less taxation and the co-operation of labor really are the surest remedies for all precious metal mines. Once the equilibrium of international exchange is nearer to normal, the premium upon gold will not be so remunerative. It is what will happen meanwhile toward a lower level of working costs that gold producers are thinking about. Certainly shareholders are weary of being penalized by combined adverse circumstances beyond their control. Their capital is nearly "frozen"—their millions are too inactive to arouse further interest in mineral resources.

BOOK REVIEW.

Geology of the Non-metallic Mineral Deposits other than Silicates. Vol. I. Principles of Salt Deposition. Amadeus W. Grabau. First Edition, 9¼ by 6¼ inches by one inch; 435 pages with Index. McGraw-Hill Co., New York. Cloth Boards.

This book is really a hand-book of salt geology, if the term is used in a sufficiently broad sense to include nitrates, borates, phosphates and similar deposits. Consideration is chiefly given to modern deposits, now forming, or but recently formed, and line of study that it is hoped may lead to successful elucidation of the origin of older deposits.

A list of the chapter headings will give the best idea of the volume, which covers a world-wide range, and is extensively illustrated by maps, tables and photographs.

After reviewing the chemistry of salts and the physical characteristics of non-metallic salts, the chapters deal with the sea as a source of saline deposits, the condition of deposition of sea salts in nature, including salt secretion by organisms; sea-margin deposits of salt, salt deposits from evaporation of a cut-off portion of the sea; salts of terrestrial origin, connate salts, their origin and mode of concentration: salts leached from older deposits, and from decomposition products of older rocks; concentration of salt by plants. Similar arrangement is followed in discussing nitrates and phosphates. Salt deposits of mineral springs and fumaroles, or circulating ground water, and of igneous origin are dealt with. The concluding chapter discusses the conditions under which salt deposits formed in former geological periods.

Canadian references are not numerous, but include the Laramie lakes on the South Saskatchewan border, and notes on J. W. Dawson's theory of the origin of the Nova Scotia gypsums and the occurrence of gypsum in dolomites overlying the salts at Goderich, attributed to alteration of limestones by acid sulphate waters.

Canadian phosphates are referred to in the second volume, which is not yet published. T. Sterry Hunt

is quoted a number of times in connection with Canadian salt deposits.

The volume is well indexed, and has been carefully edited.

ASBESTOS PRODUCTION, GRADING & PRICES.

New York advices still forecast higher prices for all grades of asbestos fibre.

The following interesting table of the production of asbestos rock, the resulting tonnage of various grades of asbestos fibre and the increase in values during the past eleven years, is compiled by the Asbestos & Mineral Corporation of New York, and published by permission.

In explanation of the statistics it is stated that a classification of the selling price has been adopted which divides the Crude into two grades, and the Mill Stock, or fibre, into three grades. The crude is hand-cobbed, and the fibre recovered by mechanical grading after crushing, no two mines grading alike.

Fibres are divided into three classes, namely, Mill Stock No. 1, long or spinning fibre; Mill Stock No. 2, shingle and magnesia stocks; Mill Stock No. 3, paper stock and "short fibres".

The tables show the striking advance in the selling-prices of Canadian fibre, which is altogether out of proportion to the tonnage of fibre produced, this not having responded to the brisk demand and high prices in any very striking manner.

As was pointed out by the Superintendent of Mines for the Province of Quebec in the Report for 1919, the tonnage of asbestos fibre in 1919 was 4.6 per cent below that of 1918, but because of increased selling prices, the value was 21.2 per cent greater.

Tables of Production and Values of Asbestos produced in Quebec 1909-1919 (compiled by Asbestos & Mineral Corporation, N.Y.)

Year	Crude		Mill		Total	
	No. 1	No. 2	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	Fibre
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
1909	1,087	1,471	5,757	19,029	36,620	63,965
1910	1,817	1,612	10,313	44,793	22,071	80,605
1911	1,400	3,382	6,340	35,991	55,111	102,224
1912	1,941	3,766	3,682	32,689	69,097	111,175
1913	2,140	2,870	14,056	29,525	88,018	136,609
1914	1,336	2,812	10,485	32,847	59,921	107,401
1915	2,734	2,631	12,502	36,945	58,303	113,115
1916	3,073	2,885	11,768	43,870	71,743	133,339
1917	1,761	3,603	13,197	54,072	64,609	137,242
1918	1,808	1,896	13,559	32,412	92,700	142,375
1919	1,103	2,991	13,764	69,868	48,136	135,862

Year	Total of Value		Total Rock Mined and Hoisted		Per Cent Fibre Per Ton Rock Milled
	Value	Per Ton	Tons	Tons	
1909	2,296,584	35.90	977,452	1,163,634	6.54
1910	2,667,829	33.10	1,709,992	2,035,705	5.03
1911	3,026,306	29.60	1,477,613	1,759,064	6.91
1912	3,059,084	27.52	1,571,310	1,870,608	7.08
1913	3,830,504	28.04	2,123,024	2,527,410	6.43
1914	2,895,935	26.96	1,808,285	2,127,395	5.94
1915	3,544,362	31.33	1,813,961	2,134,073	6.23
1916	5,182,905	38.87	1,947,424	2,291,087	6.84
1917	7,198,558	52.45	2,239,249	2,634,410	6.12
1918	9,019,899	63.35	2,078,883	2,445,745	6.85
1919	10,982,289	80.47	2,502,436	3,061,690	6.22