

**ADVANCE CHAPTER OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE MINERAL PRODUCTION
OF CANADA DURING THE CALENDAR YEARS 1907 AND 1908.**

ASBESTOS

Asbestos is mined in Canada in the Eastern townships, Province of Quebec, at Black Lake, Thetford, East Broughton and Danville. Other occurrences of the mineral have been noted, and some shipments were at one time made from the township of Denholm, in the county of Wright, north of the city of Ottawa, but the first-mentioned districts are the only localities in which mining is at present being carried on. The mining of asbestos in this region dates from about 1878, and statistics of production since 1880 are shown in tables following. The value of the annual output has grown from less than \$25,000 in 1880 to over \$2,573,000 in 1908, so that next to coal this is now one of the most important of non-metallic mineral products, and supplies a very large proportion of the world's demand. A special report on this subject has been published by this branch, though now unfortunately out of print. A revised edition is, however, in course of preparation.

PRODUCTION.

A portion of the output is sufficiently high grade to be shipped as crude; the greater part, however, is crushed and the fibre extracted by special machinery. A uniform system of classification has not yet been adopted by the operating companies, but for statistical purposes the shipments have been classified on a valuation basis, the crude being divided into two classes and the mill fibre into three grades; the short fibred, asbestic, and sand, being separately classified.

The total shipments in 1908 aggregated 90,773 tons valued at \$2,573,335, as compared with shipments in 1907 of 90,426 tons valued at \$2,505,042, the shipments in 1908 being the largest both in tonnage and value yet recorded. Details are given in Table 1.

ASBESTOS.—TABLE 1.

Production by Classes, Calendar Years 1907 and 1908.

	1907.			1908.		
	Short Tons.	Value.	Per ton.	Short Tons.	Value.	Per ton.
		\$	\$ cts.		\$	\$ cts.
Crude, No. 1.....	1,419	374,275	263 76	857½	257,752	300 59
" 2.....	2,908	456,357	156 98	2,488½	411,480	165 38
Mill Stock, No. 1.....	3,675	300,925	81 88	5,282½	425,448	80 54
" " 2.....	43,821	1,247,078	28 46	45,545½	1,345,750	29 33
" " 3.....	10,307	106,132	10 30	12,374½	114,931	9 29
Total asbestos.....	62,130	2,484,767	39 99	66,548	2,555,361	38 40
Total asbestic.....	28,296	20,275	0 72	24,225	17,974	0 74
Grand total.....	90,426	2,505,042	90,773	2,573,335