

Uses of Asbestos.

Asbestos is the most important fireproofing material known. Its fibrous structure adapts it to a wide range of applications from woven fabrics, such as theatre curtains and articles of clothing, to various forms of asbestos shingles, stucco, plaster, lumber and other building mater-

In recent years asbestos has been used successfully as a filler in high-grade paints. Its fibrous structure is advantageous when not used in too large proportion.

Development of the Asbestos Industry.

The history of asbestos mining in Quebec is interesting. Discoveries were followed by ex-

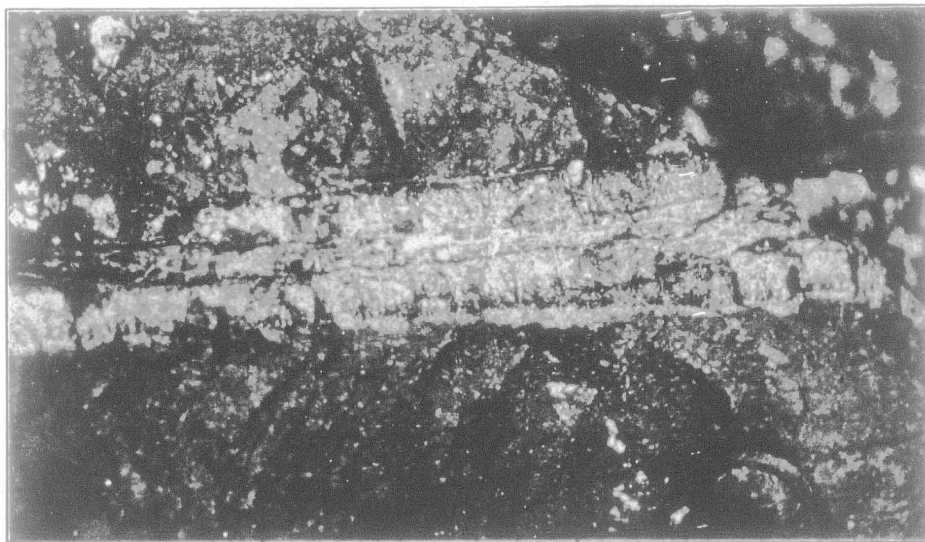


Asbestos Veins in Peridotite Black Lake, P.Q.

ial that render structures thoroughly fireproof. Its lightness, strength, durability, and insulating property against heat and electricity give it special advantages for structural use in cars and electric motor subways.

The most common use for asbestos is for asbestos paper, millboard, pipe covering, and lagging to inclose heat pipes, furnaces, and locomotives in order to prevent loss of heat by radi-

pitation and failure. New discoveries of better grade asbestos resulted in renewed activity; but there was then no market. The excellent properties of the material had to be demonstrated. Recognition resulted in rapid development of the deposits. A number of settlements sprang up in what had been a very sparsely inhabited region. For a period the companies were prosperous. Then prices fell and several properties



Asbestos Vein in Peridotite, Black Lake, P.Q. The Asbestos is the Thin Central Portion only.

ation. As a non-conductor of heat it may be used not only in the preparation of fire-proof safes and vaults, but also for cold-storage and cooling structures. Houses made of asbestos materials or coated with asbestos throughout are not only warmer in winter but cooler in summer.

were forced to close down. During the next few years, however, several improvements were made in handling the material and mills were built to separate the asbestos mechanically.

The companies, with their improved and cheaper methods, obtained a cleaner product; gradually the demand improved and the yearly output