

is usually found in connection with white granite dykes which cut the crystalline limestone and associated gneiss of the Grenville and Hastings series, which have a wide extent in this area, both north and south of the Ottawa. The market at present for this mineral is not large, but the demand has increased rapidly within the last three years, so that there is a fair prospect of some of these deposits being utilized at no very distant date.

ASBESTUS.

Of the peculiar mineral asbestos, or rather chrysotile, of which you have all heard, though there are limited deposits at several points, they are of such small extent, as compared with the great deposits in the Eastern Townships of Quebec, that it may be safely said we cannot hope to successfully compete with these in the matter of production. In point of fact, the great deposits of this mineral in Quebec have practically closed down the output of the mines for the rest of the world, at least as regard the finer qualities. Asbestos proper is a variety of hornblende, and is found and has been worked for some years in the County of Hastings under the name of actinolite. What passes under the name of asbestos in commerce is a fibrous serpentine or chrysotile which has a soft, beautiful and silky fibre, of great tenacity and strength, so that it can be readily teased out, spun and wove, or made into rope, while the shorter and more imperfect fibre is used for millboard, packing, and for a variety of purposes. Its great value depends upon its capacity to resist combustion, that is, it is practically a fire-proof material.

In connection with some of the limestones of the Grenville series there are certain serpentinous bands which contain small veins of this substance and these have been mined at a number of points, though the small size of the fibre prevents it from competing with the longer material of the Eastern Townships. This Ottawa product is, however, utilized for the manufacture of a celebrated fire-proof plaster which possesses many advantages over the common variety for interior work, and this is rapidly growing in favor with builders, so that the industry promises to