

Mining operations began in 1876, the Quebec Central was completed through this district in 1877, and in 1892 the production had reached 9 000 tons per annum.

The situation of these mines to-day is such as to reduce the cost of transportation to a minimum. In fact, the mines of Broughton, Thetford and Black Lake are traversed by the Quebec Central Railway, while the Danville mine is connected with the line of the Grand Trunk by a special branch.

In 1902, 22,000 tons were produced in this district, and now production is above 65,000 tons of Asbestos (not including the Asbestic) and instead of the price declining, it has risen.

When Asbestos was discovered in Canada, foreign manufacturers quickly realized its importance, and the production, which at the outset only amounted, as we have said, to a few hundred tons a year, rose, in 1908, to 65,534 tons, valued at \$2,547.50, not including 25,000 tons of the by-product, called "Asbestic."

To-day the crude fibre is mined and treated by hand and sold as crude, to be woven as silk is woven, but the crushing of the rock and the use of Asbestos rock that was formerly discarded has enlarged the production and the uses and brought down the cost per ton. Old dumps are being worked over to supply the builders' demand.

In 1902, Edwin Slade, of Boston, interested Henry M. Whitney in the development of Quebec's Asbestos deposits, and the energy that Mr. Whitney put forth the next seven years in this district is in evidence in the openings at Black Lake and in the King's Mine at Thetford, a few miles beyond. The King's Mine is in an open cut 175 feet deep, 1,500 feet long and 900 feet wide. Upon wire cables crossing this pit 1,000 tons of rock per day are hoisted, swung into cars and shot down the hill to the grinding mills, where they are ground and sifted, air suction taking the Asbestos from the crushed rock.

The King's Mine has been going for 25 years, but not until the magic touch of Henry M. Whitney seven years ago came upon it, was the capital and machinery made available that put this property where it is to-day, the producer of a large part of the Asbestos of this district.

Mr. Whitney sold out three years ago, but the result of his capital, his energy, his developing enterprise and his expansion of the Asbestos industry is still felt in Quebec, and Mr. Whitney is still manufacturing Asbestos lumber in New Hampshire and drawing his monthly dividends therefrom. Mr. Slade continues as the manager at Black Lake.

Only a few years ago Henry H. Melville, of Boston, with an office in the Sears Building, was travelling through New England and Canada raising capital to harness the water powers of the St. Maurice river. He not only succeeded and made good interest for all the investors therein, but he raised additional money for the construction of the Canadian Northern between Quebec and Montreal, and to build the Great Northern elevator at Quebec.