

called **asbestos**. The mineral which is produced in Canada under this head is in reality not asbestos proper, but a form of serpentine called **chrysotile**. It occurs in veins in certain portions of the great belt of serpentine rocks of the Eastern Townships of Quebec. In the Laurentian rocks of certain areas the variety actinolite sometimes forms hilly masses of considerable size, which answers well for cements, paints, etc., though not found to answer for the manufacture of millboards and the finer qualities of steam packing.

The Eastern Townships' asbestos is shipped in large quantities to England, Germany, Belgium, Holland and the United States.

694. The true value of the mineral was not at first recognized, and in the first year of mining operations (1878) only 50 tons were disposed of. The mining, though prosecuted now for a dozen years, is practically confined to two small areas about four miles apart. The first, and as yet the most important of these, is a small mound near the Thetford station, which rises about 80 or 90 feet. Employed in this industry are 40 boilers, with a capacity of 1825 horse-power, and about 2,000 men. The value of the plant is estimated at \$335,000.

695. The following table made up from returns furnished by the producers, gives the quantity and value of shipments from 1879 to 1887, after which the amount of production is given. It is believed, however, that, in some of the earlier years, the output was sometimes given instead of the quantity shipped, and, according to returns of shipments made by the Quebec Central Railway, the aggregate quantity is too high :—

SHIPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF ASBESTUS IN CANADA,
1879 TO 1893.

YEAR.	Quantity.	Value.	YEAR.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	\$		\$	\$
1879.....	300	19,500	1887.....	4,619	226,976
1880.....	380	24,700	1888.....	4,404	255,007
1881.....	540	35,100	1889.....	6,113	426,554
1882.....	810	52,650	1890.....	9,860	1,260,240
1883.....	955	68,750	1891.....	9,000	1,000,000
1884.....	1,141	75,097	1892.....	6,042	388,462
1885.....	2,440	142,441	1893.....	6,473	313,806
1886.....	3,458	206,251			
			Total.....	56,535	4,495,534