

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 1,825 horse-power, and about 2,000 men. The value of the plant is estimated at \$335,000.

933. 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 1894.

YEAR.	Quantity.	Value.	YEAR.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	\$		Tons.	\$
1879.....	300	19,500	1887.....	4,619	226,976
1880.....	380	24,700	1888.....	4,404	224,007
1881.....	540	35,100	1889.....	6,113	426,554
1882.....	810	52,650	1890.....	9,860	1,260,240
1883.....	955	68,750	1891.....	9,279	999,878
1884.....	1,141	75,097	1892.....	6,082	390,462
1885.....	2,440	142,441	1893.....	6,331	310,156
1886.....	3,458	206,251	1894.....	7,630	420,825

934. In the Thetford, Black Lake, Coleraine and Danville districts, in the Eastern Townships, there were 16 companies at work, while two companies were at work in Ottawa County. The exports of asbestos in 1892 amounted to 7,316 tons, valued at \$514,412 ; in 1893 to 5,898 tons, valued at \$396,718, and in 1894 to 6,229, valued at \$339,756.

GYPSUM.

935. Gypsum is at present worked only in Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, though deposits of a certain quality have been found in Manitoba and the Territories. Gypsum is one of the oldest worked of any of the deposits of the country. In 1701, large quantities of it were mined by the French in St. John (New Brunswick) and transported to Port Royal (now Annapolis Royal) where it was used in connection with the building operations then being carried on there. Nearly one half of the production of 1894 is credited to Nova Scotia. Of the exports of crude gypsum, nearly 80 per cent goes from Nova Scotia ; the market for it is almost altogether in the United States. From the following table it will be seen that the greater part of the production is exported in a crude state :—