29,771 tons or 9·2 p.c., Russia (estimated) 20,000 long tons or 6·6 p.c., South Africa 13,884 tons or 4·0 p.c., Cyprus 6,197 tons or 1·9 p.c., and the United States 1,212 tons.

Quebec.—The Eastern Townships have for many years been the most productive asbestos-mining area in the world. The most important deposits are those at Black Lake, in Coleraine township; at Thetford and Robertsonville, in Thetford township; at East Broughton, in Broughton township and at Danville, in Shipton township. The veins of asbestos traverse the serpentine in all directions, and as a rule the fibre lies at right angles to the walls of the veins. The veins vary in width from ¼ inch to ½ inch, and occasionally fibre has been obtained several inches in length. The fibre is of good quality and well adapted for spinning. Included in the Thetford and Black lake area are the East Broughton deposits, where the serpentine occurs enclosed in a highly quartzose slate, probably of Precambrian age. In the Danville area, asbestos up to ½ inch in length occurs abundantly, and the whole of the serpentine is impregnated with fine, short fibre, giving a first-class milling material.

Open-cut methods of mining are adopted almost invariably throughout the Canadian asbestos fields. Nearly all the mining companies have installed machinery for the crushing, fibrizing, screening and grading of the mine product. In addition, since June, 1924, the Canadian Johns-Manville Co. have been operating a plant where crude asbestos is manufactured into various finished products such as paper and board, roofing, shingles, insulation and asbestos textiles of which packings and brake linings form the major part.

34.—Production of Asbestos and Asbestic in Canada, calendar years 1909-1927.

Years.	Total.		Years.	Total.	
	Tons.	$		Tons.	$
1909	87,300	2,301,775	1919	159,236	10,975,369
1910	102,215	2,573,603	1920	188,687	13,735,442
1911	127,414	2,943,108	1921	92,761	4,906,230
1912	136,301	3,137,279	1922	163,706	5,552,723
1913	161,086	3,849,925	1923	231,432	7,532,506
1914	117,573	2,909,806	1924	225,744	6,710,830
1915	136,842	3,574,985	1925	290,389	8,988,360
1916	154,149	5,228,869	1926	279,403	10,099,423
1917	153,781	7,230,383	1927[1]	275,461	10,624,106
1918	158,259	8,970,797			

[1] Preliminary figures.

3.—Other Non-Metallic Minerals.

Natural Gas.—The production of natural gas has increased in value from $1,346,471 in 1910 to $7,741,661 in 1927. The producing gas wells are situated in the counties of Welland, Haldimand, Norfolk, Kent, Essex, Lambton, Elgin and Bruce, in Ontario, near Moncton, New Brunswick, and in the vicinity of Medicine Hat, Calgary and Viking in Alberta. The quantity of gas sold or used in 1927 was 20,529,873 M cubic feet. Of the total value, Ontario was credited with about 52 p.c.

Petroleum.—The production of crude petroleum in Canada during 1927 was 479,503 barrels, as compared with 364,444 barrels produced in 1926. Of this production 140,105 barrels came from Ontario, 18,244 from New Brunswick and 321,154 from Alberta. Alberta thus produced more than all the rest of Canada and accounted mainly for the increased production in 1927. The Turner Valley field is the principal source of production in Alberta, and contains the famous Royalite No. 4 well, which produced at the average rate of 550 barrels per day during 1926. The wells in this field give a wet gas from which a very high grade of crude naphtha is separated. The producing horizons in Western Canada were formerly considered to be the Dakota and Kootenay shale formations of the Upper and Lower Cretaceous periods, but the Royalite No. 4 well has proved that much better producing horizons exist in a lower formation, a brown porous dolomitic limestone, below the Kootenay