

quantity of gas sold or used in 1929 was 28,378,462 M cubic feet. Of the total value, Ontario was credited with about 50 p.c. Estimated production for 1930 was 29,104,570 M cubic feet valued at \$9,635,704.

Petroleum.—The production of crude petroleum in Canada during 1929 was the greatest on record and amounted to 1,117,368 barrels, as compared with 624,184 barrels produced in 1928. Of this production 121,194 barrels came from Ontario, 7,499 from New Brunswick and 988,675 from Alberta. Alberta thus produced over 88 p.c. of the total for Canada and accounted for the increased production in 1929.¹ The Turner Valley field is the principal source of production in Alberta and embraces territory in which, beginning with the famous Royalite No. 4 well, a number of productive wells have recently been brought in. 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 proved that much better producing horizons existed in a lower formation, a brown porous dolomitic limestone, below the Kootenay formation. The Red Coulee field in southern Alberta near the International Boundary began producing some petroleum in 1929, while a small production has been obtained for a number of years in the Wainwright field, about 120 miles east of Edmonton, where the oil is heavy and of a lower grade. Altogether 54 oil wells were in operation in Alberta at the close of the year 1929, while drilling was in progress on 108 other wells. These drilling operations were distributed over the Turner Valley, Wainwright, Ribstone, Red Coulee and other fields. No less than 312,251 feet of well-drilling was done in Alberta during 1929, while a further 16,200 feet of drilling was done for structural information.

The principal Ontario oil fields are situated in the southwestern peninsula between lake Huron and lake Erie. The oil districts are all situated within an area underlain by Devonian strata, and the petroleum is largely obtained from the horizons in the Onondaga at varying depths in the different localities.

Subsection 2.—Other Non-Metallic Minerals.

Asbestos.—Canada produces more asbestos than any other country. The value of the annual output of asbestos has increased from less than \$25,000 in 1880 to \$13,172,581 in 1929, so that, except for coal, asbestos is now the most important non-metallic mineral product.² In 1929, world production amounted to about 420,000 long tons; of this tonnage Canada produced 273,263 long tons or 65.0 p.c., Rhodesia 38,066 tons or 9.1 p.c., South Africa 28,717 tons or 6.8 p.c., Russia, 26,000 long tons or 6.2 p.c., Cyprus, 14,110 tons or 3.4 p.c., and the United States 2,800 tons.

Quebec.—The Eastern Townships has 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 chrysotile 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 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, and occasionally fibre has been obtained several inches in length. The fibre is of good quality and

¹ Preliminary figures for 1930, for Canada, established a further high record of 1,492,471 barrels.

² Preliminary figures for 1930 are \$8,390,163.