

An important part of Canadian salt production (45 p.c. in 1937) is used in the form of brine in chemical industries for the manufacture of caustic soda, liquid chlorine and other chemicals.

The Canadian production during the present century has shown fairly steady growth from 59,428 tons in 1901 to 91,582 in 1911, 164,658 in 1921, 262,547 in 1926 and a record at that time of 330,264 tons in 1929. Production declined to 259,047 tons in 1931 but has since recovered to 458,957 tons valued at \$1,799,465 in 1937. (See Tables 2 and 5 pp. 319 and 324.) The estimate for 1938 is 467,408 tons, valued at \$1,941,585.

Section 6.—Production of Clay Products and Other Structural Materials.

Production of these materials is naturally dependent upon the activity of the construction industry in Canada. Building and construction work fluctuates widely with business cycles and during the recent depression dropped to a very low ebb. Under these circumstances, the production of clay products, cement, gravel, and stone was severely curtailed. Some uncompleted large engineering construction operations and governmental relief projects eased the decline in the early years of the depression but the downward trend was still evident in 1933. With a slight recovery of construction activities since then (see Chapter XV) there has been a moderate increase in the production of the chief structural materials, the total reported value of production being \$34,869,699 in 1937 as compared with \$16,696,687 in 1933.

Brick and Tile.—Although the brick and tile industry is established in every province of the Dominion, production is naturally greatest near the chief centres of population, that is, in Ontario and Quebec. Production fluctuates with building activity and reached its highest point in the year 1912. Since that time the gradual substitution of steel and reinforced concrete for brick has reduced the production of brick so that, while the value of construction undertaken in 1928 or 1929 is estimated to have exceeded that of 1912, the quantity of brick produced in the later years was only about half that of 1912. On the other hand, as will be seen from Table 33, the production and consumption of cement in 1929 greatly exceeded that of 1912 or 1913. The production of building brick of various types in 1936 and 1937 is shown in Table 2 of this chapter, while the production by provinces in 1937 is given in Table 5. The estimated value of all clay products made in 1938 was \$4,437,086.

Cement.—The cement industry in Canada began with the manufacture of hydraulic or natural rock cement. The first production was probably at Hull, Quebec, between 1830 and 1840. The manufacture of Portland cement began about 1889. Owing to its superiority in uniformity and strength, it soon superseded the older product. Portland cement consists of an accurately proportioned mixture of lime, silica, and alumina. The lime is usually furnished by limestone and the silica and alumina by clay or shale. The cement industry has naturally become established where these materials are situated and where fuel supplies and transportation are readily available. The largest production is in Quebec and Ontario, although there are also active plants in Manitoba, Alberta, and British