

deposit of gypsum in New Brunswick is of very high grade. The greater part of Canada's production is exported in crude form from the Nova Scotia deposits, which are conveniently situated for ocean shipping and during recent years account for about 80 p.c. of the total Canadian production. Production of gypsum in Canada reached its highest point in 1928 with 1,246,368 tons valued at \$3,743,648. Production during 1938 was 1,008,799 tons valued at \$1,502,265, and preliminary figures for 1939 are 1,408,188 tons valued at \$1,922,957. The production by provinces during 1938 is shown in Table 6, p. 322.

Salt.—The greater part of the Canadian salt production comes from wells located in southwestern Ontario, but the Malagash deposits in Nova Scotia have shown an increasing production in recent years. The first production of commercial importance in Manitoba was recorded in 1932 and for Saskatchewan in 1933, while some commercial shipments have been made from deposits near McMurray in Alberta. An important part of Canadian salt production (38.6 p.c. in 1938) 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 330,264 in 1929, a record at that time. Production declined to 259,047 tons in 1931 but has since recovered, and in 1938 440,045 tons, valued at \$1,912,913, were produced. (See Tables 2 and 6, pp. 317 and 322.) The estimate for 1939 is 424,500 tons, valued at \$2,486,632.

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 \$34,274,543 in 1939 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 34, 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, 1937,