

purposes, which are classified under this group. Among these may be mentioned feldspar, graphite, iron oxides (ochre), magnesitic dolomite, mica, nepheline-syenite, silica brick, sodium sulphate, talc and soapstone. Statistics of production for recent years of these and other minerals of lesser importance appear in the tables mentioned above.

Asbestos.—Canada produces more asbestos than any other country. The value of the annual output of asbestos increased from less than \$25,000 in 1880 to \$14,792,201 in 1920 and \$13,172,581 in 1929. Owing to trade depression, production was much curtailed from 1929 to 1932, as will be seen from Table 29. However, since 1932, production has shown a distinct improvement. Production (mine sales) of asbestos in Canada during 1943 totalled 427,141 short tons valued at \$21,738,686, compared with 439,459 short tons worth \$22,663,283 in 1942. Other leading countries producing relatively large quantities of asbestos are Russia, Southern Rhodesia, Union of South Africa, United States, and Cyprus.

The Eastern Townships of Quebec have for many years been the most productive asbestos-mining area in the world. The veins of chrysotile asbestos 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 well adapted to spinning. Both open-cut and underground methods of mining are employed throughout the Canadian asbestos fields. Nearly all the mining companies have installed machinery for the crushing, fibricing, screening and grading of the mine product. Some development work has been conducted on an asbestos property at Rahn Lake, Bannockburn Township, Ontario. The increasing demand for short grades of fibre for use in newly developed asbestos-cement products and in moulded plastic articles are developments favouring the Canadian market.

The world's largest market for asbestos is in the United States, and Canada's proximity to this market is a very real advantage to the asbestos industry in this country. Since September, 1939, the export of asbestos has been controlled by the Dominion Government.

29.—Quantities and Values of Asbestos Produced in Canada, 1926-43

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1896-1910, inclusive, will be found at p. 424 of the 1911 Year Book and for the years 1911-25 at p. 354 of the 1939 edition.

Year	Quantity	Value	Year	Quantity	Value	Year	Quantity	Value
	short tons	\$		short tons	\$		short tons	\$
1926....	279,403	10,099,423	1932....	122,977	3,039,721	1938....	289,793	12,890,195
1927....	274,778	10,621,013	1933....	158,367	5,211,177	1939....	364,472	15,859,212
1928....	273,033	11,238,360	1934....	155,980	4,936,326	1940....	346,805	15,619,865
1929....	306,055	13,172,581	1935....	210,467	7,054,614	1941....	477,846	21,468,840
1930....	242,114	8,390,163	1936....	301,287	9,958,183	1942....	439,459	22,663,283
1931....	164,296	4,812,886	1937....	410,026	14,505,791	1943....	427,141	21,738,686

Gypsum.—The production of gypsum, which is entirely dependent on the building industry, has shown a definite decline during 1942 and 1943. Although the use of gypsum products in the building trade has made rapid progress because of their lightness, durability and their fire-resisting and acoustic properties, it is probable that production for domestic use will continue to decline during the war