

Section 6.—Production of Non-Metallic Minerals (Excluding Fuels)

The most important minerals in this group are asbestos, gypsum, salt and sulphur, but it also includes numerous other items such as feldspar, graphite, iron oxide, magnesian dolomite, mica, nepheline-syenite, silica brick, sodium sulphate, soapstone and talc.

Subsection 1.—Asbestos

The asbestos produced in Canada is practically all of the chrysotile variety and comes entirely from the serpentized rock in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. The value of the annual production of asbestos increased from less than \$24,700 in 1880 to \$22,805,157 in 1945 and \$24,490,695 in 1946. The Canadian deposits are the largest known in the world. The producing centres are Thetford mines, which has been producing since 1878, Black Lake, East Broughton, Vimy Ridge, Asbestos, and St. Remi de Tingwick. The veins of chrysotile asbestos vary in width from one-quarter inch to one-half inch and occasionally fibre has been obtained several inches in length. The fibre is of good quality and well adapted to spinning.

The world's largest market is in the United States and Canada's proximity to this market is very advantageous to the asbestos industry in this country.

32.—Quantities and Values of Asbestos Produced, 1936-46

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1896-1910, inclusive, will be found at p. 424 of the 1911 Year Book; for the years 1911-28 at p. 354 of the 1939 edition; and for 1929-35 at p. 353 of the 1946 edition.

Year	Quantity	Value	Year	Quantity	Value
	short tons	\$		short tons	\$
1936.....	301,287	9,958,183	1942.....	439,459	22,663,283
1937.....	410,026	14,505,791	1943.....	467,196	23,169,505
1938.....	289,793	12,890,195	1944.....	419,265	20,619,516
1939.....	364,472	15,859,212	1945.....	466,897	22,805,157
1940.....	346,805	15,619,865	1946 ¹	549,497	24,490,695
1941.....	477,846	21,468,840			

¹ Subject to revision.

Subsection 2.—Gypsum

The use of gypsum in the building trades has made rapid progress and Canada has extensive deposits of gypsum favourably situated for commercial developments. They are chiefly located in Hants, Inverness and Victoria counties, N.S.; Hillsborough, N.B.; Hagersville and Caledonia, Ont.; Gypsumville and Amaranth, Man.; and Falkland, B.C. The Hillsborough deposit of gypsum in New Brunswick is of very high grade. Gypsum is exported from Canada in crude form mainly to the United States for the manufacture of gypsum products. Canadian production of gypsum amounted to 1,833,717 tons in 1946.