

Operations to determine the percentage of voids and percentage saturation with oil and water in about 20 ft. of beds gave the following results: specific gravity of the bituminous sand varied between 2.03 and 2.08; a cubic yard of sand in place at the quarry weighs about 3,450 lb.; total voids vary between 33 p.c. and 35.5 p.c. of the volume of undisturbed sand; total saturation of the voids of undisturbed sand with oil and water varies between 86.5 p.c. and 91.5 p.c.; percentage water saturation varies between 72 p.c. and 86 p.c.; only a few analyses have shown a larger oil content than 15.5 p.c.

The amount of oil that can be present is determined by the void space. Bitumount sand appeared richer than sand from the Abasand quarry near McMurray, yet analyses of Abasand samples generally showed oil contents greater than 16 p.c. The sand grains in the Abasand sand are finer than those at Bitumount and the void spaces are about 40 p.c. of the volume of sand.

Natural Gas Production.—Alberta accounts for about 85 p.c. of Canada's production of natural gas. It is estimated that the total for all provinces was 60,000,000,000 cu. ft. in 1949, of which 51,000,000,000 cu. ft. was from Alberta's wells. Ontario's production amounted to 8,000,000,000 cu. ft. in 1949.

24.—Quantities and Values of Natural Gas Produced, by Provinces, 1940-49

NOTE.—For the years 1892-1919, see the Annual Report on the Mineral Production of Canada, 1928, p. 188; for the years 1920-28 see p. 347 of the 1940 Canada Year Book; and for 1929-39, p. 350 of the 1946 edition.

Year	New Brunswick		Ontario		Alberta		Canada ¹	
	M cu. ft.	\$	M cu. ft.	\$	M cu. ft.	\$	M cu. ft.	\$
1940.....	616,041	300,543	13,053,403	7,745,834	27,459,808	4,923,469	41,232,125	13,000,593
1941.....	653,542	317,437	11,828,703	7,140,130	30,905,440	5,175,364	43,495,353	12,665,116
1942.....	619,380	299,688	10,476,770	6,809,901	34,482,585	6,146,146	45,697,359	13,301,655
1943.....	675,029	327,787	7,914,408	6,543,913	35,569,078	6,241,815	44,276,216	13,159,418
1944.....	702,464	341,636	7,082,508	4,694,097	37,161,570	6,339,817	45,067,158	11,422,541
1945.....	653,230	317,568	7,199,970	4,837,586	40,393,061	7,095,910	48,411,585	12,309,564
1946.....	541,010	262,441	7,051,309	4,656,528	40,097,096	7,184,006	47,900,484	12,165,050
1947.....	489,810	279,790	7,785,921	5,334,991	44,106,643	7,745,886	52,656,567	13,429,558
1948.....	420,352	287,446	8,590,429	6,958,247	48,965,217	8,324,087	58,603,269	15,632,507
1949.....	375,035	146,864	8,024,213	8,826,634	51,179,779	2,558,989	60,457,177	11,620,302

¹ Includes small amounts produced in Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.

Subsection 5.—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, magnesite dolomite, mica, nepheline syenite, peat moss, silica brick, sodium sulphate, soapstone and talc.

Asbestos.—The asbestos produced in Canada is practically all of the chrysotile variety and up to the present has come entirely from the serpentized rock in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. A new mine at Matheson, Ont., began production about the middle of 1950. The value of the annual production of asbestos has increased from less than \$24,700 in 1880 to a peak of \$42,231,475 in 1948 and \$39,746,072 in 1949. Most of the mines were idle for several months of 1949 because of labour disputes and shipments declined 20 p.c.

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.