The new plant of St. Lawrence Cement Company, which is situated at Villeneuve just east of Quebec City and which has a productive capacity of 1,500,000 bbl. annually, came into production in the spring of 1955. A similar plant will be built by the Company at Clarkson, Ont., west of Toronto, to be in operation early in 1957.

St. Mary's Cement Company at St. Mary's, Ont., is adding a kiln with a capacity of 750,000 bbl. a year. Inland Cement Company, financed by La Société Générale de Belgique, is building a plant at Edmonton, Alta., which will have a capacity of 1,750,000 bbl. a year. British Columbia Cement Company is adding a kiln with a capacity of 1,000,000 bbl. yearly to its Bamberton plant. Saskatchewan Cement Corporation is building a plant at Regina with a capacity of 850,000 bbl., and International Cement Company has announced its intention of building a plant at Chilliwack, B.C., with a capacity of 750,000 bbl. a year.

At the close of 1956 Canada will have a Portland cement industry capable of producing 37,000,000 bbl. annually, and when all the projected plants are in operation the capacity of the industry will be about 40,000,000 bbl. which, on a per capita basis, will far exceed that of any other nation.

Brick and Tile.—The brick industry with traditions that go back to antiquity has obtained its share of the increased business brought about by the continued upsurge in building activity. Production of brick and tile reached a new peak in 1955 when, according to preliminary statistics, the value of structural clay products made exceeded $35,500,000. British, West German and French capital has become interested in the Canadian brick and tile industry and during 1954 and 1955 several plants were purchased with the intention of increasing the scale of production.

A new tunnel-kiln brick plant to produce buff face-brick was completed at Lantz, N.S., by L. E. Shaw, Limited during the year after tests by the Industrial Minerals Division of the Mines Branch at Ottawa proved that this clay would yield a buff brick of superior quality. It is the only large deposit known in Eastern Canada from which buff brick can be made without the addition of other materials. Extensive expansion and modernization programs are under way at many other clay products plants across the country.

Several new types of building materials are appearing on the market. Prominent among these is cellular concrete which combines lightness with strength and low thermal conductivity. The cellular concrete products at present on the market in Canada are precast units which have been cured in autoclaves. Pre-stressed concrete products are also coming on the market in increasing quantity, fostered by shortages of brick and steel.

Lightweight Aggregate.—The manufacture of lightweight aggregates from shale, clay and slag is also a new and rapidly growing industry in Canada, supplying the construction industry with lighter aggregates than have been available in the past. Seven plants are now making these products from clay and shale, and two plants are producing lightweight aggregates from blast furnace slag. Six other plants are producing expanded perlite from imported raw material and seven are engaged in expanding imported vermiculite. Perlite Manufacturing Corporation announced that it was preparing to produce perlite for the Canadian market from large deposits in British Columbia, 25 miles south of Burns Lake station on the Canadian National Railway. Perlite is a glassy volcanic rock containing about 4 p.c. of combined water. When rapidly heated to a temperature of about 1,500° F. the water is converted into steam and the rock expands into white glassy bubbles that are less than one-tenth the weight of sand or gravel. Perlite finds its principal application in wall plaster where it serves to give a light product with improved thermal and acoustical insulating properties.

Sand and Gravel.—Important changes are taking place in this industry which in 1954 had an output valued at nearly $59,000,000, a value exceeded only by that of nine other minerals and mineral products produced in Canada in that year. Deposits of high-grade sand and gravel are becoming increasingly difficult to find in many parts of Canada and in others are of insufficient size to provide the quantities required for large engineering