

**Barite.**—Demand for barite remains high and production topped all previous records in 1956 when 320,825 tons valued at \$3,031,034 were shipped; 96 p.c. came from the mine of Magnet Cove Barium Corporation at Walton, N.S. After being crushed and washed, the barite from this deposit is shipped by boat to plants on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico and in South America where it is ground for use in making heavy drilling muds needed to combat high pressures encountered in drilling deep oil wells.

**Cement.**—The annual productive capacity of the Canadian Portland cement industry increased by 5,000,000 bbl. to a total of 42,000,000 bbl. in 1957 through the addition of kilns to existing plants and the construction of two new cement plants, one built by Lake Ontario Cement Company Limited at Picton, Ont., with a rated yearly capacity of 1,800,000 bbl. and one by Lafarge Cement of North America Limited at Vancouver with a rated yearly capacity of 1,300,000 bbl. Production (shipments) of cement in 1956 amounted to 28,695,331 bbl. valued at \$75,233,321, a record both in quantity and in value.

The Canadian cement industry has increased its production capacity threefold since the end of World War II, but even so has been unable, until 1957, to supply the domestic demand. In recent years it has been necessary to import between 2,300,000 and 3,400,000 bbl. a year. Demand for cement has been accentuated by the heavy requirements of such great engineering works as the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project which is using nearly 5,000,000 bbl., most of it from Canadian plants. From 1956 on it is anticipated that only very small imports of cement will be required and efforts will be made to develop an export market for any surplus production.

**Clay Products.**—Clay products include brick, tile, ceramic pipe, pottery, porcelain and certain types of refractories. Nearly 200 plants are engaged in the manufacture of these products in Canada. Value of production in 1956 reached a record of \$37,784,980. In the larger plants of this industry from Newfoundland to British Columbia a changeover is in progress from periodic and old-type continuous kilns to modern tunnel kilns fired by oil or gas. These tunnel kilns, though high in initial cost, permit better control and greater efficiency. The widespread use of the tunnel kilns is largely related to the imminent availability of natural gas for fuel.

**Fluorspar.**—Production of fluorspar reached a new high both in quantity and in value in 1956 when 140,071 tons valued at \$3,407,582 were shipped. The most important uses of this mineral are as follows: (1) in the production of sodium aluminum fluoride for use in the aluminum industry; (2) flux in the manufacture of steel; (3) for ceramic purposes. The two principal producers of fluorspar have their mines at St. Lawrence in the Burin Peninsula of Newfoundland. A large part of the Canadian production in recent years was exported to the United States where much of it was stockpiled as a strategic mineral. The removal of fluorspar from the list of minerals to be stockpiled will result in a much lower production in 1957.

**Gypsum.**—Production of gypsum attained a new high in 1956 when 4,895,811 tons valued at \$7,260,236 were shipped from Canadian quarries, most of it going out of the country in the crude state. It is used principally for wallboard, wall plaster, sheathing board, lath, and tile. The largest deposits are in Nova Scotia from where 84 p.c. of the Canadian production is obtained. In 1956 a new quarry was opened near Windsor, N.S., by Canadian Gypsum Company Limited which will bring the Company's productive capacity up to 11,000 tons per day on a single shift basis. Gypsum has been quarried in this vicinity for well over 100 years and the quarries are among the largest in the world. The gypsum is shipped by boat to the Company's plants along the Atlantic Coast of the United States where it is made into various products.

**Lime.**—The Canadian lime industry is anticipating the greatest production in its long history in 1957, surpassing the previous record production of 1,331,118 tons valued at \$15,810,904 achieved in 1955. Through the ages lime has been regarded as a construction material and its chief functions were as a plastic binder in masonry and as plaster for walls. These uses now account for only 10 to 15 p.c. of the output—the remainder is