

developed most rapidly on the prairies where ordinary aggregates such as stone and gravel are not plentiful, but there are a number of important plants in Eastern Canada and in 1958 large new plants were under construction in Quebec and British Columbia.

The lime industry had a record production in 1958 when 1,612,761 tons valued at \$20,439,311 were marketed. Although lime is important as a structural material its uses for chemical purposes have become paramount and now only 10 to 15 p.c. of the output goes into construction. A major factor in the increase in sales of lime in 1958 was the demand from the Ontario uranium industry.

Asbestos.—Sales of asbestos fibre decreased to 942,135 tons valued at \$96,168,029 in 1958 from record sales of 1,046,086 tons valued at \$104,489,431 in the previous year. Capacity to produce asbestos is still growing, however, and during the latter half of 1958 three new mills came into production in the Eastern Townships of Quebec which will have the capacity to increase the industry's output by 13 p.c. and the world's output by nearly 9 p.c. These new mills are the 5,000-ton-per-day mill of Lake Asbestos of Canada Limited at Black Lake, the 3,000-ton mill of National Asbestos Mines Limited, and the 2,500-ton mill of Carey Canadian Mines Limited, both at Thetford Mines. The latter mill replaces that of the former Quebec Asbestos Corporation which ceased production when the new mill was in full operation.

In other parts of Canada, outside the main asbestos-producing area of Quebec, developments were also going forward. In Newfoundland \$1,000,000 or more is to be spent in readying for production a large chrysotile asbestos deposit in the Baie Verte district of the Burlington Peninsula on the east coast. Reserves are estimated at 23,300,000 tons. This development is being undertaken by Advocate Mines Limited, and is being financed jointly by Canadian Johns Manville Company Limited, Patino Limited of Canada, Amet Corporation Incorporated, and Financière Belge de l'Asbestos Ciment S. A. Johns Manville is to manage and operate the project. The other firms are large users of asbestos in Europe and elsewhere.

Production of asbestos by Cassiar Mines Limited at Cassiar in northern British Columbia continues to increase rapidly. The company has acquired control over three additional deposits of chrysotile in northern British Columbia and Yukon and will be undertaking development work on them in the near future. Another discovery of asbestos was made in the Dease Lake district of British Columbia at the close of the year.

Salt.—In keeping with the growth of the chemical industry of which it is a very important raw material, the production of salt has increased rapidly in the past few years, having nearly doubled since 1953. The 1958 production was a record 1,863,866 tons valued at \$15,482,850. Exports to the United States of 406,563 tons also constituted a record. Prior to 1955 exports of salt from Canada were very small, but in that year Canadian Rock Salt Company began the production of rock salt from a new mine at Ojibway, Ont., at the rate of 500 tons per hour, most of which was exported by boat to the United States. Exports were further increased in 1958 when concentrated brine from the same company's property was exported to the Detroit area through a pipeline buried in the bed of the Detroit River. Another salt mine will be operated at Pugwash, N.S., by Malagash Salt Company, a subsidiary of Canadian Salt Company, Montreal, when shaft-sinking difficulties have been overcome. Dominion Tar and Chemical Company Limited of Montreal, through its subsidiary Sifto Salt Limited, is sinking a shaft near Goderich, Ont., with the intention of mining a 20-foot bed of pure rock salt found in that locality. Thus rock salt is becoming by far the most important product of the industry. Prior to 1955 all of the salt produced in Canada with the exception of the output of the Malagash Salt Company in Nova Scotia was obtained by introducing water to deeply buried salt beds and pumping up the resultant brine which was used as such by nearby industries or the salt was recovered from it by evaporation. Rock salt is a much cheaper product than evaporated salt and it or the brine is the preferred raw material for salt-using chemical industries engaged in making caustic soda, chlorine and other products.