

Canadian British Aluminium Company Limited operates a 90,000-ton smelter at Baie Comeau, Que., the capacity of which is to be expanded to 135,000 tons by 1965. As all bauxite or alumina for use by the aluminum smelters is imported, mainly from the Caribbean area, metal production is classed in official statistical data with manufactures and not with smelter production of metals from ores of domestic origin. Production of primary aluminum in 1962 was estimated at 690,000 tons compared with 663,000 tons in 1961; of the latter, 487,000 tons were exported and domestic consumption amounted to 127,000 tons.

### Subsection 2.—Industrial Minerals

The value of Canada's production of industrial minerals in 1962 increased by 4.4 p.c. to \$558,181,000 compared with 1961, establishing a new record for the fourth successive year. This segment of the mining industry, which accounts for 20 p.c. of the nation's mineral production, includes the many non-metallic minerals and structural materials listed in Table 5, p. 559. The most important recent developments taking place among them are discussed below.

**Asbestos.**—Canada is the world's leading asbestos-producing nation and the major supplier of this mineral to the Free World market. During 1962 shipments of asbestos fibre from producing mines amounted to 1,223,509 tons valued at \$132,061,000, a record high output which made up approximately 45 p.c. of world production.

Chrysotile, the most widely used variety of asbestos, occurs in several places in Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia and Yukon Territory but the main centre of the industry is in the Eastern Townships of Quebec where 12 mines account for more than 90 p.c. of the nation's production. Two mines are in production in other parts of Canada—one in northern Ontario and one in northern British Columbia—and a large deposit at Baie Verte in Newfoundland is being developed, scheduled for production in mid-1963. Canadian Johns-Manville Company, Limited will operate the property and is constructing a 5,000-ton-per-day mill.

Exploration and engineering studies of an asbestos deposit in Ungava are under way. Early in 1962, Murray Mining Corporation announced that an asbestos orebody, 3,600 feet in length and ranging in width from 150 feet to 200 feet, had been delineated at Asbestos Hill, 40 miles southeast of Deception Bay off Hudson Strait. The main ore zone was reported to have a reserve of at least 15,230,000 tons containing 11.3 p.c. of recoverable fibre and the west-end ore zone a reserve of 2,480,000 tons. The fibre from this deposit is semi-harsh and fast-filtering and consequently should find application in the asbestos-cement industry. In May, Asbestos Corporation acquired an option on the property and began detailed engineering and feasibility studies. Development will require not only mining and milling plants but also power-generating facilities, a townsite, a transportation route to the coast and dock facilities for ocean transport.

Another development of interest to the industry during 1962 was the acquisition by the Eternit group of a 10-p.c. interest in Asbestos Corporation. This group embraces asbestos manufacturing firms in Europe.

**Cement.**—It is significant to note that Portland cement production in Canada now ranks ninth in the entire mineral industry in value of output. Production in 1962 reached an all-time high at an estimated 6,786,000 tons valued at \$113,864,000. The many major engineering projects that have been constructed in recent years throughout the country have contributed to the growth of this industry. At the same time, concrete and concrete products have become leading building materials in contemporary construction, with precast and prestressed structural shapes replacing structural steel on an increasing scale. To serve the construction industry in the Montreal area, Francon Limited has entered the field of precast and prestressed concrete products with a modern plant at St. Michel, which contains the Continent's largest tension beds for prestressed beams and girders.