

Subsection 4.—Production of Non-metallic Minerals (excluding Fuels)

Asbestos is by far the most important item in this group in point of value, followed by salt, sulphur and gypsum. These four items are discussed separately below. Next in importance is peat moss which, although included as a non-metallic mineral, consists of the dead fibrous moss produced from peat bogs; its growing use as a soil conditioner, as poultry and stable litter and as packaging material resulted in shipments valued at nearly \$7,700,000 in 1962, double the shipments of 1956. Quantities and values of other non-metallic minerals produced are shown in Table 5, p. 559, and a review of recent developments in the industrial mineral field is given at pp. 536-538.

Asbestos.—In 1962, Canadian asbestos mines shipped a record 1,223,509 tons valued at \$132,060,710, representing an increase of 4.2 p.c. in quantity and 2.4 p.c. in value over 1961. Quebec, with 12 producing mines, accounted for over 92 p.c. of the total tonnage; Ontario's one mine produced 35,000 tons and British Columbia's one mine produced 55,700 tons.

18.—Quantity and Value of Asbestos Produced, 1953-62

NOTE.—Figures from 1896 are given in the corresponding table of previous Year Books beginning with the 1911 edition.

Year	Quantity	Value	Year	Quantity	Value
	tons	\$		tons	\$
1953.....	911,226	86,052,895	1958.....	925,331	92,276,748
1954.....	924,116	86,409,212	1959.....	1,050,429	107,433,344
1955.....	1,063,802	96,191,317	1960.....	1,118,456	121,400,015
1956.....	1,014,249	99,859,969	1961.....	1,173,695	128,955,900
1957.....	1,046,086	104,489,431	1962 ^p	1,223,509	132,060,710

Salt.—The output of salt reached a high point in both quantity and value in 1962, with all producing provinces contributing to the increase over 1961. Ontario produced almost 87 p.c. of the total tonnage. Rock salt is mined in Nova Scotia and Ontario only; brine wells are operated in Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

19.—Quantity of Salt Produced, by Province, and Total Value, 1953-62

NOTE.—Figures from 1926 are given in the corresponding table of previous Year Books beginning with the 1946 edition.

Year	Nova Scotia	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	Canada	
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	\$
1953.....	127,819	749,046	18,078	35,100	24,885	954,928	6,974,501
1954.....	150,589	733,066	17,809	37,227	31,196	969,887	8,340,163
1955.....	144,862	998,789	18,954	40,748	41,408	1,244,761	10,122,299
1956.....	132,539	1,347,729	21,068	42,814	46,654	1,590,804	12,141,476
1957.....	122,763	1,538,805	19,372	43,684	46,935	1,771,559	13,989,703
1958.....	125,872	2,126,183	20,560	46,511	55,766	2,375,192	14,989,542
1959.....	120,225	3,036,230	23,547	48,776	61,198	3,289,976	18,034,522
1960.....	163,901	3,007,599	21,925	49,064	72,431	3,314,920	19,355,658
1961.....	225,875	2,861,705	23,103	51,964	83,880	3,246,527	19,552,006
1962 ^p	309,683	3,127,043	24,100	54,180	91,800	3,606,811	23,185,423

Sulphur.—The figures in Table 20 represent the quantity and value of sulphur contained in derivatives from smelter gases such as sulphur dioxide, sulphuric acid, etc., and in pyrite and pyrrhotite shipments, as well as the quantity and value of sulphur