

interesting to note that for many years Canada shipped large quantities of pyrite to Japan for use in the manufacture of sulphuric acid. Sales of sulphur within Canada have also increased, serving to reduce the imports of Frasch sulphur from the United States.

With a capacity of 2,000,000 tons of elemental sulphur per annum, Canada ranks second to the United States among world elemental sulphur producers and is capable of supplying 10 p.c. of the current world market. Elemental sulphur is a byproduct of the preparation of natural gas for the market. It is produced at 15 plants in Alberta, one in Saskatchewan and one in British Columbia. Existing plants are adequate to serve current contracts for cleaned natural gas for markets in Canada and the United States but it is expected that by 1967 the demand for western Canadian natural gas will require the construction of additional plants and these will have a capacity of 500,000 tons of elemental sulphur per annum. Two new plants are planned for 1964.

Construction Materials.—An active construction industry brought the output of mineral products used in that industry to a record level in 1963. Such major projects as the Hydro Quebec power complex under construction north of Baie Comeau, which will eventually add over 7,000,000 hp. to the Quebec system, together with large road and other engineering projects and the building industry required record quantities of crushed and natural aggregate. It is estimated that the 1963 production of aggregate exceeded 200,000,000 tons. An interesting development during the year was the opening of an industrial aggregate plant in trachytic phonolite in Verchères County of Quebec, which produces aggregate for special concretes and granules for industrial application. This is an example of a small specialized stone operation adapted to the needs of a regional market.

Renewed interest is being shown in certain phases of the dimensional stone industry in Canada. In this industry, limestone, sandstone, granite and marble are all quarried and dressed for use in building construction and ornamental applications. Canadian marble quarrying, which has been virtually dormant, became active in 1963 with the development of deposits of white, grey and green serpentinized marble in Lanark and Renfrew counties of Ontario, just west of Ottawa, and of green serpentinized and blue marble near Tatlock, Ont. The latter is of unique character and can be quarried in large blocks. The Italian marble industry has shown interest in these marbles and blocks have been shipped to Italy to test the market there.

Recently, Canadian architects have been using ornamental stone for various effects, despite the growing availability of reconstituted stone and alternative building materials.

Gypsum.—Shipments of gypsum were more than 11 p.c. heavier in 1963 than in 1962 as a result of increased demand from the United States; much of the Canadian production goes to that country in crude form. A great part of the output of this mineral is mined in Nova Scotia, although smaller amounts are produced in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia. The only addition to productive capacity in 1963 was that of a new underground gypsum mine at Silver Plains, 36 miles south of Winnipeg, Man.

Salt.—Over the past two decades, the growing need for ice control for winter highway traffic has brought about a significant increase in the market for rock salt, so that about one half of the Canadian production, which fluctuates between 3,200,000 tons and 3,800,000 tons annually, is of rock salt mined in Nova Scotia and southern Ontario. Part of this production is exported to the United States. Since the market is primarily for particle sizes greater than eight-mesh, disposal of fines has become a problem.

Subsection 3.—Petroleum and Natural Gas

The oil and gas industry in Canada continued to experience general economic buoyancy during 1963 and developments during the early part of 1964 indicate another successful year with higher outputs of both products. Crude oil production averaged 709,000 bbl. daily during 1963; extraction of propane, butanes and pentanes from natural gas added