Aluminum.—Canada is second, after the United States, in non-communist world aluminum production. At the end of 1964 annual capacity was 913,000 tons but capacity for a further 20,000 tons was under construction at the Kitimat, B.C., smelter of Aluminum Company of Canada Limited. This Company also has smelters at Arvida, Isle Maligne, Shawinigan and Beauharnois, all in Quebec. Canadian British Aluminium Company Limited operates a smelter at Baie Comeau, Que., with an estimated capacity of 105,000 tons. As all bauxite or alumina used by the aluminum smelters must be imported, mainly from the Caribbean area, metal production is classed in official statistical data with manufactures and not with smelter production of ores and metals of domestic origin. Production of primary aluminum in 1964 was 842,640 tons, of which 627,992 tons were exported. Domestic consumption was estimated at about 175,000 tons as measured at the semi-fabricated level. Of this amount 18,054 tons were exported.

Subsection 2.—Industrial Minerals

The 1964 production of industrial minerals in Canada was at a record high for the sixth consecutive year. Producer shipments of non-metallic minerals, clay products and other structural materials of mineral origin were valued at $687,300,000, almost 9 p.c. higher than for the previous year, and represented 20 p.c. of the total mineral production. New production records were established for asbestos, cement, gypsum, nepheline syenite, potash, salt, sodium sulphate and sulphur. Important developments taking place during 1964 in the production and marketing of asbestos, potash, silica sand, sulphur and certain structural materials are reviewed in this Subsection.

Asbestos.—In 1964, for the fifth consecutive year, Canadian shipments of asbestos established an all-time high; 1,377,079 tons of fibre valued at $148,370,312 were shipped to the markets of the world, an increase of 8 p.c. over 1963. Quebec, which produces almost 90 p.c. of the Canadian output, British Columbia and Newfoundland contributed to the increase. Shipments in Ontario, the only other producing province, were lower than in 1963. The principal grades were in good demand during the year.

World production for 1964 is estimated at 3,500,000 tons, having doubled in a ten-year period. A substantial part of this increase is attributed to a rapid rise in the U.S.S.R. where production is estimated to be 1,500,000 tons, slightly ahead of the Canadian output. Traditionally, the U.S.S.R. asbestos industry has been located at Sverdlovsk in the Urals but two other important areas have been under development for some time and a new mine near Kiembi, Kazakhstan, about 300 miles south of Sverdlovsk, is expected to begin operation in 1965. A deposit at Aktrovak in Tannu-Tuva is also being prepared for early production. These developments will provide a major increase in the U.S.S.R.'s production capability for asbestos fibre. While Soviet Union consumption is expected to rise with the addition of new asbestos-cement producing facilities currently under construction, there is speculation that exports will also increase.

In Quebec, Asbestos Corporation Ltd., the second largest producer of Canadian asbestos, acquired the assets of Johnson's Co. Ltd. and Johnson's Asbestos Company operating the Johnson mine at Thetford and the Magnetic pit at Black Lake. Johnson's have had a continuous record of production for over eighty years. The consolidation, will enable certain production economies to be achieved in the two producing areas. Asbestos Corporation, early in the year, exercised its option to acquire the Asbestos Hill deposit of Murray mining Corporation Limited, 40 miles south of Deception Bay in northern Quebec. Over the past few years exploration and development of this deposit have established a substantial reserve of commercial-grade fibre.

The only producing asbestos mine in Ontario (Munro, of Canadian Johns-Manville Company, Limited, located near Matheson) ceased operation on July 31. This mine has been a source of fibre for the asbestos-cement industry since 1950. The same company