

has in hand an extensive exploration and development program in Reeves Township, about 40 miles southwest of Timmins. Underground development work is proceeding to prove up the orebody and facilitate bulk sampling of the deposit.

In British Columbia, Cassiar Asbestos Corporation Limited increased mill capacity to 1,700 tons a day, providing additional equipment for recovery of other asbestos-cement fibre grades. The company continued its exploration program at Clinton Creek, adding to the reserves of this promising deposit.

Potash.—During 1964 world potash demand increased at a higher rate than in past years until it exceeded output. Despite high production by all suppliers, inventories were reduced and shortages were reported in overseas markets. In North America supplies were barely sufficient to serve domestic and some export demands. Except for full-scale production and increased capacity at the Esterhazy plant of International Minerals and Chemical Corporation (Canada) Limited, shortages would have occurred in North America and would have been more serious in overseas markets. This plant is estimated to have exported more than 700,000 tons K_2O in 1964 with a value of about \$20,000,000.

The success of the Esterhazy project and the rising demand for potash throughout the world served to encourage new development in Saskatchewan. In mid-1964, Kalium Chemicals Limited started operating its new solution mining complex 25 miles west of Regina and in late September, at the formal opening of the plant, shipped two trainloads of potash totalling some 7,000 tons. Potash Company of America was completing plant alterations and plans to resume production early in 1965. In addition, new deep potash shafts were being sunk by International Minerals at Gerald, by Alwinal Potash Corporation of Canada Limited near Lanigan and by United States Borax and Chemical Company at Allan and it is expected that other potash projects will be announced during 1965. The 24 companies holding potash rights in Saskatchewan and Manitoba at the end of 1964 had about 4,000,000 acres under permit and lease. To the companies now considering but not yet committed to potash development in Saskatchewan, the vital consideration is to accurately assess the future growth in world potash demand; this is expected to be in the order of 13,000,000 tons K_2O in 1965, 16,000,000 tons in 1970 and 20,000,000 tons or more in 1975. Recent data tend to suggest that even these estimates are conservative in that consumption of potash has increased from 10,600,000 tons in 1962 to 11,600,000 tons in 1963 and to an estimated 13,000,000 in 1964. Assuming that these projections are realistic and considering that productive capacity should be possibly 20 p.c. in excess of expected demand, projected capacities should then be about 15,600,000 tons in 1965, 19,200,000 tons in 1970 and 24,000,000 tons in 1975. Of these totals, Canadian capacity is expected to be about 1,600,000 tons in 1965, 5,500,000 tons in 1970 and 8,700,000 tons in 1975.

Considering these world potash requirements and the vast reserves of high-quality material available in Canada, the major industry being developed is both necessary and timely. It is possible that the most optimistic suggestions about future production in Saskatchewan will prove to be low.

Silica Sand.—Canada has always been heavily dependent on imported silica sand, chiefly from northeastern United States, for the bulk of its requirements. The chief consumers, glass and silicon carbide manufacturers and steel foundries, are located principally in southeastern Quebec and southern Ontario where there are no naturally occurring high-quality sand deposits. However, two domestic producers are assuming an increasingly important role in providing high-quality sand for the Quebec market—Industrial Minerals of Canada, Limited, operating a deposit of Potsdam sandstone at St. Canut, Two Mountains County, Que., and Dominion Industrial Mineral Corporation, operating a deposit of friable quartzite at St. Donat, Montcalm County, Que. Industrial Minerals, in 1964, completed an extensive investigation of silica deposits in the area south and west of Montreal and late in the year acquired a controlling interest in Canadian Silica Corporation Limited, the largest producer of silica sand in Canada. Dominion Industrial Mineral