

Ceramic Materials.—Several interesting and important expansions in the domestic ceramic industry were noted during the year. New clay preparation equipment and several tunnel kilns were added or are being considered to meet an increasing demand for brick and other ceramic products. Clayburn-Harbison Ltd., Vancouver, completed a new tunnel kiln for firing pressed face brick at its Abbotsford plant. The company has introduced a new "giant" pressed clay brick which is similar in size and structure to the common concrete block. This brick is being successfully marketed in the Vancouver and Seattle areas. A new tunnel kiln for use in the manufacture of facing brick from local raw materials was completed at Brique Citadelle Ltée's Beauport plant in Quebec, production from which will supplement that from two tunnel kilns and a continuous kiln at the company's Boischatel plant. The tunnel kilns at Boischatel are used for firing buff facing brick manufactured from imported clay. New clay preparation equipment has been added by East Angus Brick and Tile, Inc., at East Angus, Que., and by Estevan Clay Products at Estevan, Sask.

Medicine Hat Brick and Tile Company Limited plans to build a tunnel kiln plant to produce pressed facing brick at Redcliff, Alta., and a second plant at Winnipeg to manufacture brick and tile. Sunburst Ceramics Ltd. has introduced several novel processing methods at its Medicine Hat plant, including a "Ram" process for the production of ceramic ware and the firing of ceramics by an envelope kiln.

Output from a new glass container plant nearing completion at Burnaby, B.C., being built for Dominion Glass Company, Ltd., together with that from Dominion Glass Company's plant at Redcliff, Alta., the only other glass container plant in the four western provinces, should adequately supply the western market for many of the common varieties of glass containers.

Subsection 3.—Petroleum and Natural Gas

Most segments of the Canadian oil and gas industry, from field production through transportation to marketing, had a good year in 1964. Production of crude oil averaged 750,000 bbl. a day compared with 710,000 in 1963. In addition, the propane, butane and pentanes-plus derived from natural gas contributed 105,000 bbl. daily to the liquid hydrocarbon supply. Thus total liquid hydrocarbon output of oil and gas field facilities amounted to 855,000 bbl. a day, an increase of 9 p.c. over 1963. Production of natural gas continued to increase at about the same rate as in 1963. Net production amounted to 3,600,000 Mcf. daily, 19 p.c. greater than 1963 output.

Production of crude oil and natural gas liquids increased in all the major producing provinces except British Columbia, where output decreased 6 p.c. Production in Alberta increased 8 p.c.; in Saskatchewan 14 p.c.; in Manitoba 17 p.c.; and in Ontario 3 p.c. Alberta held its position as the predominant producer, supplying 577,000 bbl. daily, or 67.4 p.c. of Canadian liquid hydrocarbon output. Saskatchewan production accounted for 26.4 p.c. and British Columbia for 4 p.c. Manitoba, Ontario, Northwest Territories and New Brunswick produced the small remainder. In Alberta, crude oil output was equivalent to less than half of the province's productive capacity but in the other provinces production was at near-capacity rates. Alberta was also the major producer of natural gas, accounting for 87 p.c. of Canada's net production.

The Alberta government announced a new crude oil proration plan, which is to become fully effective in 1969. The general effect of the plan will be to increase production from pools of large reserves and high productivity, while tending to discourage the development of marginally economic oil areas. The Saskatchewan government passed new legislation designed to encourage exploration in the province, particularly in the deeper strata, by allowing less restrictive land selection to companies making oil or gas discoveries and by providing a royalty-free period for discoveries below the top of Devonian strata.

Exploration and development drilling for oil and gas totalled 16,100,000 feet in 1964. The 15,600,000 feet drilled in Western Canada was 10 p.c. more than the 1963 total, and just short of the all-time record established in 1956. Development drilling, constituting