

Asbestos.—Following six years of successive increases, the 1965 output of asbestos in Canada dropped almost 3 p.c. below that of the previous year to 1,380,210 tons valued at \$140,000,000; production in Quebec, which produces about 90 p.c. of the total, and Ontario was lower but that in Newfoundland increased 19 p.c. and that in British Columbia 26 p.c. Although the demand for most grades remained good during the year, Canadian asbestos is experiencing competition with fibre from other countries, including the Soviet Union, especially in overseas markets. Production in Russia is now estimated to be slightly ahead of Canadian output. The traditional source of asbestos in Russia has been from deposits at Sverdlovsk but two other sources being developed will increase substantially the production potential of and presumably the exports from that country. Mainly because of the expansion of the Russian industry, Canadian production has been growing at a lower rate than world output and in 1965 accounted for only 39 p.c. of the estimated 3,500,000-ton world total.

Asbestos Corporation Limited is proceeding with the development of a large asbestos deposit at Asbestos Hill, 40 miles south of Deception Bay in the Ungava area of Quebec, at an estimated cost of \$50,000,000. It is expected that this property will be brought into production in 1970 with a capacity of 100,000 tons of fibre per annum. Ore reserves exceed 20,000,000 tons.

Yukon Territory may soon join the ranks of asbestos producers. Cassiar Asbestos Corporation is preparing the Clinton Creek deposit for operation in 1968. It is located 40 miles northwest of Dawson and is expected to produce 40,000 tons of fibre per annum. Ore reserves are estimated to exceed 12,000,000 tons. In British Columbia, exploratory work is continuing on the Kutcho Creek property, 60 miles southeast of the Cassiar mine. In Ontario, an asbestos deposit in Reeves township, 40 miles southwest of Timmins, is under development. Canadian Johns-Manville Company has in hand an underground exploration program to prove up this interesting occurrence. The only production of asbestos recorded in Ontario in 1965 was from Hedman Mines Ltd., east of Matheson.

Recently there has been considerable interest in the development of new uses for asbestos. The addition of short-fibre asbestos to asphalt road-paving mixtures is reported to reduce cracking of the road surface and lengthen the pavement life; a project at the University of Florida has indicated that heat-resistant paper can be made from a mixture of asbestos and other inorganic fibres and Union Carbide Corporation has developed a special grade of asbestos from its California operation that is reported to be an effective addition to cellulose sulphite pulp in conventional paper-making.

17.—Quantity and Value of Producers' Shipments of Asbestos, 1956-65

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	\$
1956.....	1,014,249	99,859,969	1961.....	1,173,695	128,955,900
1957.....	1,046,086	104,499,431	1962.....	1,215,814	130,251,966
1958.....	925,331	82,276,748	1963.....	1,275,530	136,956,180
1959.....	1,050,429	107,433,344	1964.....	1,419,851	145,193,443
1960.....	1,118,456	121,400,915	1965.....	1,380,210	139,805,322

Potash.—Potash mining is a recent development in Canada, the first output being recorded in 1962, valued at \$3,000,000. By 1965, the three Canadian producers in Saskatchewan had a total productive capacity of 1,820,000 tons of K₂O a year and produced 1,430,000 tons valued at \$54,000,000, although all three were not in operation for the full year and one plant was expanded late in the year.