

17.—Quantity and Value of Producers' Shipments of Asbestos, 1957-66

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	\$
1957.....	1,046,086	104,489,431	1962.....	1,215,814	130,281,966
1958.....	925,331	92,276,748	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	121,400,015	1965.....	1,388,212	146,188,473
1961.....	1,173,695	128,955,900	1966.....	1,489,055	163,654,863

Potash.—Potash mining is a recent development in Canada, the first output being recorded in 1962, valued at \$3,000,000. Activity in this industry, which is concentrated in Saskatchewan, has since continued at a high tempo. In 1966, production—from two shaft mines at Esterhazy and Saskatoon and from one solution mine at Belle Plaine—totalled 1,990,000 tons (K₂O), 37 p.c. more than that of 1965. The bulk of this output was exported to world markets. Production will be greatly increased when the several new mines and plants now under construction come on stream. At the close of 1966, ten shafts and six refineries were under construction, which when completed will raise productive capacity from its current level of 3,400,000 tons of product (KCl concentrate) per year to an estimated 12,000,000 tons per year. Other shafts and plants, as yet unannounced, are expected to further increase productive capacity by 1970.

World potash consumption has increased substantially during the past five years and the urgent need for fertilizer materials to increase world food supplies assures continued strong growth over the long term. However, during the next few years, potash production may exceed actual consumption as many new operations, mainly in Canada, reach production. The scale of potash operations in Canada and in the Soviet Union will be much larger than the facilities operating in the older potash-producing areas and this, together with higher quality ores, should result in low unit production costs. Over the long term, the advantages of new technology, large-scale operations, and lower-cost transportation on land and sea will place Canada in a strong competitive position for world markets and, at the same time, offer hope of relatively stable and low potash prices—the most important factor in encouraging the wider use of this commodity.

Salt.—Production of salt during 1966, at 4,492,000 tons, was maintained near the record level established the previous year. Rock salt is mined in Nova Scotia and Ontario; brine wells are operated in Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Ontario, with two rock salt mines and with advantageous facilities for export of both rock salt and brine, accounts for 84 p.c. of total output. Technical advances continue toward upgrading the purity of various salt products as salt remains a prime chemical raw material with many uses essential to industrial development. It is of interest to note that salt is also a by-product of the potash operations in Saskatchewan, more than one ton of salt being produced for every ton of refined potash. By 1970, when potash production is expected to approach 12,000,000 tons of product (KCl) annually, the rate of production of by-product salt will probably exceed 18,000,000 tons. However, major markets for this material are lacking; although research into utilization in road and soil stabilization programs is under way and small quantities are used for ice control during winter months, large tonnages will continue to accumulate at increasing rates as new potash mines are developed and brought into production.