

The term "industrial minerals" includes the various non-metallic minerals (exclusive of fuels) as well as rocks, sands, gravels and clays used for construction purposes.

Within the past ten years, annual production of industrial minerals in Canada has increased nearly four-fold in value from \$80,235,946 to \$311,063,476 (preliminary figure, 1953), whereas in the same period the value of production of metals has more than doubled to \$708,912,835. It should be borne in mind that whereas the dollar value of the refined metals incorporates the cost of fluxes, reagents, and refractories used in their processing, the value of industrial minerals refers, in general, to their value in the crude or semi-processed state. Dollar value, however, tells only part of the story; in tonnage produced, the industrial minerals far outdistance metals and coal combined.

About 50 industrial minerals are produced commercially at present in Canada, and there are many more that can be produced if demand for them arises.

Canadian chrysotile *asbestos* is known for its quality the world over. Production began in 1878 in the Eastern Townships of Quebec and has been continuous ever since. This area is still the world's greatest source of asbestos and reserves are vast. It supplies 95 p.c. of the Canadian production—and Canada supplies nearly 70 p.c. of the world output. In recent years asbestos has been found in several other parts of Canada and is now being produced near Matheson, Ont., and at Cassiar, B.C. A small mill is also being built at an asbestos deposit on the west coast of Newfoundland. Canadian output of asbestos in 1953 was 911,713 tons worth \$87,633,124, over 96 p.c. of which was exported. Recent years have witnessed a great program of modernization and expansion among the asbestos producers. One large new company is now planning a mill that will process 100,000 tons of asbestos annually.

Asbestos finds many uses: because of its fibrous nature it can be spun into yarn and made into cloth; mixed with cement, asbestos is used in the manufacture of shingles, pipe, flat and corrugated sheets. It is also used in brake linings, clutch facings and gaskets as well as for electrical insulation and thermal insulation. The shorter grades are used in the manufacture of asphalt floor tiles, in undercoatings for automobiles, as fillers in plastics and paints, and for many other purposes.

Barite or *heavy spar*, as it is sometimes called because of its great weight, is quarried at Walton, N.S., and at Parson and Brisco, B.C. Production in 1953 reached an all-time peak of 248,973 tons valued at \$2,316,474. British Columbia barite is white and is used as a filler for paints, rubber, paper, etc., and also in oil-well drilling muds. The deposit at Walton, N.S., which supplies the greater part of the production, is thought to be the largest in the world. The only other deposit of comparable size is found in Germany. It is pink in colour and finds its principal use in heavy drilling muds. These muds must be of high specific gravity in order to overcome the pressures of gas and water in deep wells and also to provide a medium that will float drill cuttings. Most of the barite is shipped by sea for use in the region around the Gulf of Mexico and in South America. Barium chemicals made from barite find wide use in numerous industries. Barite is also used as a heavy aggregate in making the heavy concrete shields used in atomic energy plants.

Fluorspar—a beautiful glassy mineral of yellow, green, red, purple or violet colour—is obtained mainly from the Burin peninsula in Newfoundland where it occurs in veins in granite. Reserves of fluorspar in Newfoundland are among the