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The X-Ray Identification and Specification of Asbestos

By George L. Clark

Department of Chemistry, University of Illinois

The analysis, differentiation and identification of the numerous varieties of the minerals generally classified as asbestos, including serpentine, hornblende and related classes, offer one of the most interesting fields of application for X-ray science.

So distinctive are the diffraction patterns obtained by passing a fine beam of X-rays, defined by pinholes, perpendicular to a bundle of asbestos fibres that it is possible not only to identify the exact type of the mineral but also often the district in which it was mined.

This is made possible, of course, by the fact that asbestos does not have a constant and definite chemical composition. In the manifold functional uses of asbestos, including heat and electrical insulation, fireproofing, brake lining, base for catalysts in the contact sulfuric acid process where resistance to acid and heat, and mechanical stability are essential, there is always a particular variety of the raw mineral which is best adapted for the purpose. Instead of an uneconomical process of purchasing without specification or of conducting a laborious and often inconclusive optical or chemical analysis, the characteristic X-ray patterns of the desired variety may be used as a dependable specification. A single photograph of the new material will identify it before use.

The examination of materials for ultimate structure and constitution depends upon the fact that crystals are three-dimensional diffraction gratings for X-rays. Crystals are built up of parallel planes upon which lie the atoms, and these planes are spaced from each other at a distance which is entirely comparable with the wave length of X-rays. Thus, a structure which appears homogeneous to the eye will disclose a fine structure to the microscope, which, in turn, will show subdivision in the

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ultraviolet microscope, and one of these subdivisions will diffract X-rays in a way which indicates that it, in turn, is built of ultimate crystal units. Thus, when a beam of X-rays defined by small pinholes passes thru a single crystal grain of iron, the result is a pattern of sharp spots (Fig. 1) on a photographic plate placed behind the crystal. In every direction thru the grain are parallel planes of atoms with a certain spacing. Each set of planes picks out from the X-ray beam impinging upon this set at a certain angle, a ray of a definite wave length, which is reflected in accordance with the simple Bragg law: n lamba = 2 d sin theta. This diffraction pattern upon analysis proves that the smallest subdivision which is still crystalline iron is a cube with an atom of iron at each corner and one at the center and with an edge length of 2.86 x 10^{-8} cm. This minute unit cell multiplied in all directions produces the visible crystal grain. With such a fundamental relationship between matter and X-radiation it is evident that crystals of known unit cell dimensions may be used as gratings to analyze the unknown structure of crystals.



Fig. 1. Typical X-ray diffraction pattern for a single crystal (iron).

Among the numerous X-ray methods which may be employed in the examination and analysis of materials, the simple pinhole method is best adapted for asbestos fibres. A beam of rays from a molybdenum target X-ray tube is rendered practically monochromatic (that is, a single known wave-length) by filtration thru a screen of xireonium oxide. The beam is defined by two pinholes in lead blocks, over the outer of which the specimen is

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fastened. A flat photographic film is placed at a fixed distance beyond the specimen and the pattern is registered thereon.

With an experimental arrangement various types of patterns are obtained, depending upon the material. For a single crystal the symmetrical array of sharp spots already exemplified for iron in Fig. 1 is obtained. A powder or fine grained aggregate composed of small crystal grains in chaotic arrangement, that is, without any common orientation, produces a diffraction pattern of concentric uniformly intense rings whose numbers, spacings and relative intensities are characteristic for the material. In the so-called Hull powder method, slits are used to define the X-ray beam and straight spectral lines are obtained on a narrow film. If the crystal grains are larger than 10^{-3} cm. in diameter, the diffraction lines are spotted and dashed, while if the particle size is smaller than 10^{-6} cm. the lines become broader in proportion as the size decreases, so that a measurement of line breadth permits a determination of particle size in the range of colloidal dimensions.

If the material is built up of small crystal grains which are all oriented in a definite way with respect to a common direction, the patterns characteristic of fibrous materials, such as most of the varieties of asbestos, are obtained. Thus, an asbestos fiber is not a single crystal but is composed of numerous small crystals

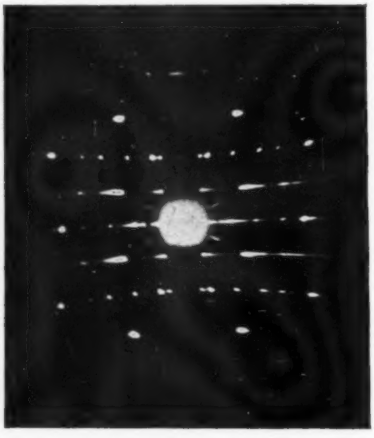


Fig. 2. Pattern for Chrysotile Asbestos showing perfect arrangement of crystal grains.

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which are built together almost as perfectly as tho the fibre were a single grain. Certain types of asbestos are probably the most perfect fibres in nature. Cellulose of all sources, silk, cobwebs, tendons, stretched rubber, drawn metals, etc., are also fibrous to a greater or less degree.

Figure 2 shows the perfect fibre pattern for chrysotile, a variety of serpentine. The distinction from Fig. 1 for a single crystal and from uniformly intense concentric rings for chaotic aggregates is clearly apparent. Diffraction spots lie upon hyperbolic curves, and it is also possible to imagine circles drawn thru the spots around the central direct beam image. These hyperbolas have a double significance; they prove that the fiber is a perfect one, for if the grains were less perfectly arranged the circles upon which the spots lie would become more prominent and the hyperbolas would disappear. Again, these hyperbolas, sometimes called the "layer lines," measure unit ultimate distances between like planes of atoms along the fibre independent of any assumptions as to crystalographic systems. In other words, chrysotile is built up of minute ultimate crystals lined up along the fibre whose fundamental *size* along the fibre axis may be measured very simply from the distances of the hyperbolas above and below the center in Fig. 2 from the straight equatorial line. This size, of the order of 4 to 5 x 10^{-8} cm. is perfectly characteristic of the type and composition of the asbestos. The positions of the *spots* on the *hyperbolas* will permit calculations of the two other fundamental dimensions of the *unit ultimate crystal cell.* From the volume of this cell and the specific gravity of the asbestos it follows that the number of molecules of the silicate which form the unit building block of the mineral, may be deduced. In a more practical sense, these calculations and unique crystal analyses are unnecessary in specifications since simple measurements on the film and the general appearance of the patterns serve to identify an unknown speimen with a standard pattern of a known variety.

In Fig. 3 is shown the pattern for the same chryso-

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tile sample, photographed with a slightly different technique. Instead of using a flat photographic film perpendicular to the X-ray beam a film was bent into a cylinder *around* the X-ray beam, with the specimen at the center. Here the straight perpendicular lines are the same as the two sides of the straight equatorial horizontal line in Fig. 2. This method is sometimes useful in making more exact measurements.

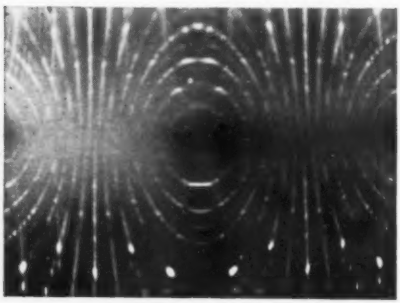


Fig. 3. Same as Fig. 2 except that photographic film is cylindrical and coaxial with X-ray beam.

When the beam of X-rays is passed *parallel* to the fibre direction instead of *perpendicular* to it, as in the preceding figures, an altogether different pattern, shown in Fig. 4, is obtained. The crystal grains are oriented with respect to one direction but not to one at right angles in this case since the diffraction spots are entirely irregular. This property is true of all fibrous materials, and is a particularly strong evidence of the anisotropy or distinctly *directional* properties.



Fig. 4. Pattern for Chrysotile with X-ray beam passing parallel to fibre axis showing irregular arrangement.

In Fig. 5 are shown the patterns for six more minerals often classified as asbestos in that they may display silky crystalline fibres. These are respectively, from

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left to right, top, tremolite (amphibole) amosite, rock milk (usually calcium carbonate); bottom, mountain cork, crocidolite (amphibole) and marmolite. These

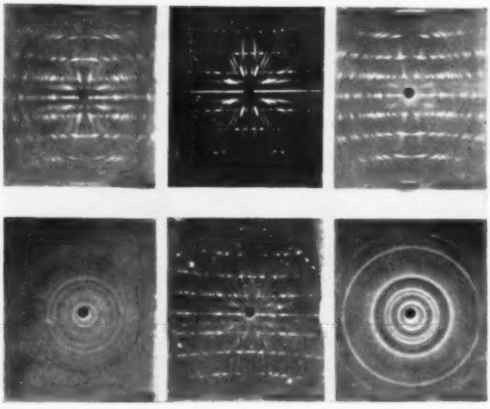


Fig. 5. Patterns for six asbestos-like minerals Tremolite, Amosite, Rock Milk, Mountain Cork, Crocidolite, Marmolite.

clearly all differ from each other and from chrysotile. It is evident that mountain cork and marmolite do not possess fibre structure but the crystal grains are in random arrangement. The pattern for amosite shows clearly radial streaks and fourth-order curves which are indicative of strain or distortion in the fibre.

Finally it is interesting to observe what effects we produced upon structure by subjecting asbestos fibres to tests of practical utility. Fibres which have been subjected to acid and heat treatment, were photographed and a few examples are shown in Figs. 6 and 7. A splendidly resistant fibre had the structure shown in Fig. 6 a, differing not greatly from the original mineral. The fibres in 6 c had been in use some time in a sulfuric acid contact chamber; the pattern shows both asbestos and the catalytic platinum. In Fig. 6 b, another fibre

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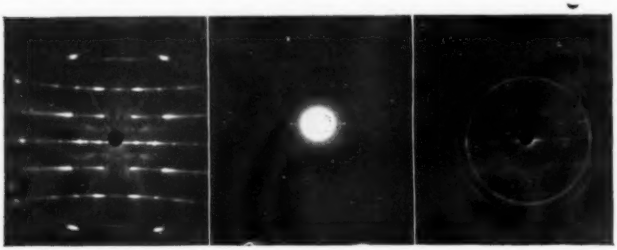
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IMPORT

EXPORT

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lost 65 per cent of its weight in hot concentrated hydrochloric acid, but still retained a perfectly definite fibre



6a *6b* *6c*

Asbestos fibre structures resistant to acid and heat treatment.

structure, a skeleton of practically pure SiO_2. Fig. 7 illustrates two types of failure in which the asbestos did not stand up: the first lost 32% of its weight and

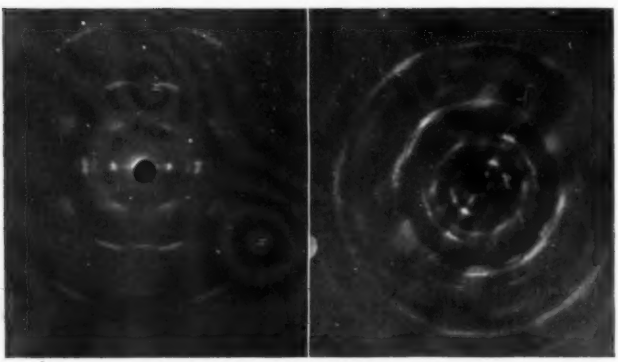


Fig. 7. Asbestos fibre structures showing chande and disintegration with use.

crumbled, the second diagram illustrates practically complete failure with mechanical and even chemical disintegration.

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These illustrations will suffice to show the great field of applications of X-ray analysis of asbestos structure as a powerful method of specification and identification and as a chemical method of studying changes under various conditions. Fig. 2 represents the standard pattern for the best possible asbestos (chrysotile) to use as a base for supporting catalysts. This is most resistant to the conditions of heat and acid and retains a mechanical fibre strength which does not result in packing of broken down fibres and clogging up of catalyst chambers in which sulfur dioxide and oxygen combine. Similarly other types of asbestos are adapted for other practical uses.

In a later article a comparison of asbestos samples from mines all over the world will be presented.

The rapid development of asbestos mines in the Pietersburg District of South Africa, has given rise to much discussion concerning transportation facilities. The principal question seems to be whether to improve the road to Malips via Chunies Poort, or to construct a new road thru Beyers Nek which would shorten the distance by 20 miles. Some asbestos producers believe that the old road if improved would be satisfactory until asbestos tonnage increased sufficiently to warrant the expenditure of £8,000 or more for the construction of the new one. Others believe that the new road should be constructed at once and so be in readiness for the large increase in asbestos production which is expected.

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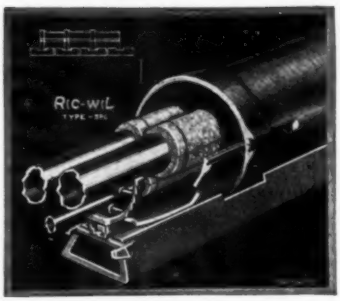
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The Many Uses of Zonolite

Several months ago we told our readers of a new material on the market—Zonolite.

Since then the Zonolite Company has found many uses for this rather remarkable material.

Perhaps the use which is of the most interest to the Asbestos Industry is that for pipe and boiler covering. The material is wet—ground pure, or with varying percentages of any fibrous material, and can either be manufactured in moulded form or applied as plastic. It is said to be tough and strong enough to withstand considerable abuse and needs no covering fabric. Combined with magnesium and moulded into bricks it possesses high thermal insulation properties for use in secondary or insulating refractories.

Zonolite has also been found useful as a packing in hollow wall spaces, over ceilings, etc., as an insulation



for buildings. It is very light weight—a ton will cover 500 square feet of ceiling to a depth of four inches. An advantage of its use as wall insulation is the fact that it can be applied to the walls of houses, etc., already built,

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Canadian Crude
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Canadian Shingle Fibre
Russian Crude
Rhodesian Crude
South African Blue Crude
South African Yellow Crude

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with resultant saving in heat. It is also used in wall plaster.

The material makes a very beautiful and efficient kalsomine or paint pigment, either in its natural golden color or tinted to the shade desired.

It has been used in connection with asphalt binders or tar adhesives as a composition roofing.

Very likely other uses will be found for this rather remarkable material as time goes on. Our readers can obtain full information on its many uses by addressing the Zonolite Company at Libby, Montana.

New African Asbestos Companies

So many new firms have been organized in Africa recently for the purchase, development or mining of Asbestos deposits, that it is very difficult to keep them all in mind. Some of these new firms have been mentioned in recent issues of "Asbestos," and a few more are announced in this issue.

Perhaps a list of these recently formed companies with amount of capital, location of claims, etc., may clarify the situation and enable our readers to obtain a better idea of the exploitation of asbestos properties which has been going on in the African Asbestos field. The list follows:

South African Consolidated Asbestos Limited, Johannesburg. 2000 asbestos claims in Pietersburg District—blue and amosite. R. B. Saner, Chairman. Capital £1,000,000. (See May "Asbestos," page 46).

Rhodesian Chrome and Asbestos Co., Ltd., Salisbury, Rhodesia. Amalgamation of Umvukwe chrome and asbestos properties. Capital £350,000. (See May "Asbestos," page 46).

Chunes Asbestos Limited, Johannesburg. 904 base metal claims, blue and amosite, Pietersburg District. Capital £50,000. J. S. Hancock, Chairman. (See June "Asbestos," page 50).

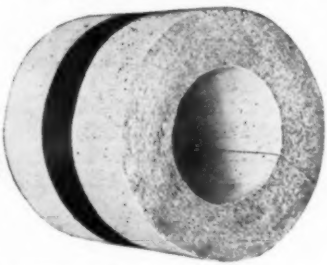
African Asbestos Trust Limited. Purchased Kloof Asbestos property. 6,000 acres of serpentine rock, Barberton District, chrysotile. Capital £5,000,000. Tilden Smith,

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PAPER - MILLBOARD - CEMENT

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Chairman. (See July "Asbestos," page 44).

Mashaba Rhodesia Asbestos Co. 150 acres, Southern Rhodesia. Henry Dubbs-Lorimer (of the United Mining & General Trust) Chairman. Capital £150,000. (See July "Asbestos," page 45, and August, page 45).

Victoria Rhodesia Asbestos Ltd., Victoria, Rhodesia. Capital £2,000 for purpose of acquiring and working asbestos mines in any part of the world. (See August "Asbestos," page 45).

Premier Asbestos Co. 2,000 claims. Blue and amosite in Pietersburg District. Capital £250,000. (See August "Asbestos," page 45).

Australian & General Asbestos Co. 186 acres, Western Australia, West Pilbara District, Chrysotile. Capital £100,000. George Perce Ashmore, London (director of West African Diamonds) acting chairman. (See August "Asbestos," page 45).

Mapeke Asbestos Mines, Limited, Mashaba, Rhodesia. Four mines of 30 claims each. Chrysotile. A. G. Pryce Williams, Consulting Engineer. Capital £100,000. (See August "Asbestos," page 47).

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The attractive warehouse and office of the Canadian Asbestos Company, 36-48 Youville Square, Montreal, P. Q., Canada, where B. Marcuse, President and Manager of the Company has his headquarters.

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FACT AND FANCY

Knocking.

Years ago it was considered a part of the salesman's art to knock his competitors' goods, and if not specifically encouraged by his superiors, neither was the practice specially frowned upon.

In these days when competitors are co-operating along the lines of advertising simplification, etc., knocking is not only considered exceedingly "bad form," unethical and seriously harmful to business, but indulgence in it often makes the salesman appear extremely ridiculous.

Knocking your competitor's goods is a sure way to lose a customer's goodwill toward your own firm. Some salesmen do not seem to realize that persistent indulgence in this form of sport arouses in the customer a suspicion that his goods may not be quite up to the mark else he would not be so eager to run down the other fellow's.

Not long ago in purchasing a certain article, the salesman said to us "I don't know anything about my competitor's article. It may and probably will do all he claims for it, but I do know that my article will do thus and so, and I can prove to you that it will." A fair enough attitude, surely, and one strongly in contrast with that of a salesman who called at our office one day to show us a certain type of file box of which we were in need. While talking he noticed an appliance which we had purchased from another firm and which was in direct competition with one of the lines he sold. He immediately took it upon himself, even tho we had made no mention of the appliance to tell us that it was no good, would not do what we required of it, and that a certain article in his line would be much better for our purpose, etc. We got rid of him, somehow, but are frank to state that while he may not know it, the welcome on our doormat is not meant for him.

Boosting the *industry* in which you are working, telling the merits of your own particular brand of goods, with no mention of the other fellow's, brings the best results.

Indeed there are some firms, and we know at least a

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Asbestos
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few in the Asbestos Industry itself, who frankly state they will summarily dismiss a salesman, or in fact anyone in their employ, who is found guilty of knocking his competitor's product.

As a matter of precaution it would be well to find out your firm's attitude before indulging too generously in this form of sport. Or better yet, cut it out altogether and so play safe, both with your customer and with your job.

"Asbestos" Plant May Cover Hills is the title of a short item appearing in a Chicago newspaper.

Upon reading farther, however, we find that the "plant" is not asbestos at all, but is, to quote the article "Equally as effective so far as non-burning qualities are concerned." It is said that the plant is composed almost wholly of water and is an evergreen unaffected by dry seasons. It spreads rapidly and is recommended by plant scientists for the elimination of the menace of brush fires.

It is rather encouraging ,however, to find that the thought of fireproofing automatically brings to the mind of the public, as represented in this case by the newspaper reporter, the thought of asbestos.

X-Raying Asbestos.

The identification of Asbestos by X-ray is a somewhat new development, and the very interesting, if somewhat technical article which appears on page 2 of this issue, should be carefully read, even tho it may be over some of our heads.

Professor George L. Clark of the Department of Chemistry, University of Illinois, is greatly interested in the subject of X-Ray research, and has promised to follow this article with another comparing the X-ray findings of various asbestos specimens, taken from mines all over the world.

We have in our office a reprint of Prof. Clark's paper before the American Society for Testing Materials, on "The X-ray Examination of Materials in Industry," and will be glad to lend this to anyone deeply interested in the subject of X-ray.

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AMERICAN ASBESTOS COMPANY

Manufacturers of
Asbestos Textiles

NORRISTOWN, PA., U. S. A.

Headquarters for
Yarns, Cloth, Tapes, Fibres, Brake Linings and Textiles Generally

WRITE FOR PRESENT PRICES

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It would seem probable that the use of X-ray in identifying Asbestos Fibres might develop into a real service to the Industry. If anyone has had any experience along this line we would be glad to have their comments.

Madagascar. Recent reports from Madagascar show asbestos occurrences in that island, the material being reported as of good quality and of the chrysotile variety. Unfortunately the deposits do not appear to be very extensive.

The last report we had from Madagascar (See August 1924 "Asbestos," page 9), stated that the material was of the amphibole variety only. Evidently new deposits have since been discovered.

He may have greasy hands and the seat of his pants may be shiny, but if his children have their noses pressed against the window pane a half-hour before he is due home for supper, you can trust him with anything you have.—The Mixing Bowl.

HOLLYWOOD ASBESTOS

is remarkable for its resistance to the action of acids, heat, and water. A short Amphibole fibre for use in moulded products, paints, plaster, etc.

Samples and prices furnished upon application

HOLLYWOOD ASBESTOS MINES
HOLLYWOOD, GA.

ASBESTOS

Offers required in any quantities for Great Britain and European Markets from Producing Companies, Merchants or Agents. Any reasonable terms arranged. Reply to S. Rhys, 59/60 Mark Lane, London, E. C. 3.

TAPE
AND LISTINGS

Write For Samples and Prices
ATLAS ASBESTOS CO.
NORTH WALES, PA.

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Veteran of Mechanical Packing Industry Dies in His Seventieth Year

(Frederick Winters Griffith)

Frederick Winters Griffith, who died July 11th in his California home in Pasadena, in his 70th year, has been associated with the Mechanical Packing Industry ever since its infancy.

Mr. Griffith was born at Phelps, N. Y., December 17, 1858, received his education in the public schools and was graduated from Hamilton College with an A. B. Degree and membership in the Phi Beta Kappa.

At the time of his death he was President, Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors of the Garlock Packing Company, Palmyra, N. Y. He was one of the founders of the Company and has helped supervise all its activities for over a period of forty years.

Mr. Griffith was a member of the Alumni Board of Trustees Hamilton Chapter Delta Epsilon and of the Hamilton College of Trustees. From 1910 to 1912 he was State Senator in the New York Legislature and had also served as Presidential Elector for the Republican Party. He was also Trustee of the Auburn Theological Seminary of Auburn, N. Y., and had served as a member of the Palmyra Board of Education. Mr. Griffith was a life member of the Palmyra Lodge of Masons; a member of Palmyra Eagle Chapter; Zenobia Commandery, Knights Templar; Nobles of Mystic Shrine and Rochester Consistory, Scottish Rite.

At the time of his death Mr. Griffith was preparing to make a trip to Alaska. During the last ten years he has traveled extensively and two years ago made a trip around the world.

SALESMAN: Connected with the Asbestos Industry in general for more than ten years, familiar with covering, contract, textiles and shingles, desires position. Address 8H-N, "ASBESTOS."

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"CAPE" BLUE ASBESTOS

POSSESSES

DURABLE & NON-CONDUCTING QUALITIES

unequalled by any other asbestos, besides which it has:

(1) Greater tensile strength
(2) Greater specific volume
(3) Greater resiliency

SPECIALTIES:—

ALL CHEMICALLY PURE i. e. 100% ASBESTOS

"Pluto" Blue Asbestos **Mattresses** for Locomotive and Marine Boilers, etc.

Blue **Cloth** for Acid Filtration

"Bluejacket" **Sectional Covering** for steam pipes (100% Asbestos)

THE RAW MATERIAL IS GRADED AS FOLLOWS:

"S" Crude from ¼ in. to ½ in. in length of fibre
"A" Crude from ½ in. to ¾ in. in length of fibre
"B" Crude from ¾ in. upwards in length of fibre

Prices for Crude can be obtained on application direct to the Cape Asbestos Co. Ltd.

The Cape Asbestos Co Limited
Morley House 26-30 Holborn Viaduct London E.C.1.
Factory, Barking, Essex

Telegrams:— "Incorrupt," London. Telephone City 6937

Sole Representatives for the sale of blue manufactured goods in America.

The United States Asbestos Co. Manheim, Penna.

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MARKET

ASBESTOS
S.V.K.
ST. NIKLAAS N.V.
CEMENT

TRADE MARK

ASBESTOS-CEMENT
SHINGLES
CORRUGATED
SHEETS
AND LUMBER,

ARE USED EXTENSIVELY BY THE BELGIAN RAILWAY AUTHORITIES & WAR DEPARTMENT. THIS IS PROOF OF THEIR QUALITY.

L. Scheerders-Van Kerchove,
St. Niklaas (Waes)
Belgium

QUOTATIONS, LITERATURE and SAMPLES SUBMITTED TO ANYONE INTERESTED.

General Business

The comment on the general business situation, which appears in the August issue of The Industrial Digest, appears to cover conditions very adequately, and we quote therefrom:

"The volume of general trade thru most of last month was on the whole, substantially in excess of what had been expected. There was far less than the usual mid-summer letdown, and in building, automobile and farm implement manufacturing, as well as chain store, mail order and fertilizer business, activity was at or close to record levels.

"Thus it is clear that while the expectations of the sanguine ones who expected new prosperity records in all directions, have hardly been realized, the apprehensions of those who feared last winter and spring that we were headed for general economic depression, have been proven entirely unfounded.

"With buyers still tak-

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ing only what they expect to use immediately, the high rate of output so far this year shows that there has been unusually high consumption and that accumulations from first half-year shipments are negligible."

So much for the general business situation.

Asbestos—Raw Material.

One of our readers, in commenting on the raw material market says:

"There has been no particular change in the market situation, on raw asbestos. On the whole the production of spinning grades is about the same and there is little hope of any increase in the near future. There is a scarcity of spinning material and of this there can be no question. Medium grade fibres are in good supply while short grades are going into storage or over the dump."

The development going on in the African Asbestos fields indicates that the spinning fibre situation will be relieved to some extent in the near future.



TRADE MARK

"EVERITE"
Asbestos Cement
Shingles
Lumber
Corrugated Sheets

"GIFFA"
Decorative
Wall Lining
(patented)
The best imitation of Marble Panels measuring 8' 3" x 4'
27 Patterns

Apply for Prices, Pamphlet and Free Samples

Societe Francaise de "l'Everite"
Plaine St. Denis
nr. Paris
and Bassens nr.
Bordeaux
(France)

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Asbestos—Manufactured Products.

Taken as a whole, the asbestos trade in manufactured goods is fairly satisfactory.

Demand in most lines is fair and prices firm. In those lines using long fibres for spinning, the tendency, due of course to scarcity of spinning fibres, is to advance.

Changes are for the most part gradual, and it is therefore difficult to note them from month to month.

Perhaps the outstanding feature of the year's business will be the great increase in popularity and in use of Asbestos Cement products, particularly shingles. Despite the fact that several new factories are now in operation, business is reported by the manufacturers as good.

On the whole the Asbestos Industry cannot complain.

Among callers at our office recently were: A gentleman interested in an asbestos mine in northern Canada, desiring to get in touch with someone who had money to put into it. The specimen he carried was very good chrysotile material.

Also a man from the production department of a large asbestos manufacturing plant, who wished to see our exhibit of asbestos specimens and look over some of the photographs, advertising literature and other matter on the subject of asbestos.

Several photographs of the New Amianthus Mine, Kaapsche Hoop, Eastern Tranvaal, have been sent to us by Dr. A. L. Hall, Director of the South African Geological Survey, some showing the ribbon-like formation which is a feature of this mine.

Many of these photographs will be published in future numbers of "Asbestos."

REALISTIC ADVERTISING

Johnnie—I can't get the cow home! She's down by the railroad track flirting with the tobacco sign.

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Asbestos Fibre

for the manufacture of

Roofing Cements · Fibrous Paints
Filtration Packings
Asbestos Shingles and Lumber
Insulating Cements
Asbestos Paper · Pipe Coverings
Asbestos Millboard
High Temperature Cements

THE QUEBEC ASBESTOS CORPORATION

Office and Mines
EAST BROUGHTON, PROVINCE of QUEBEC
CANADA

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CONTRACTORS AND DISTRIBUTORS PAGE

APPLYING ASBESTOS CEMENT

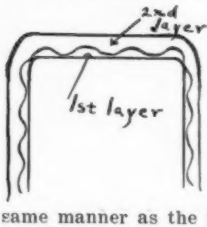
There is always an easy way to do anything, as well as a hard way. Likewise there is a right way as well as a wrong way. The easy and right way is the one which reduces labor cost, and eliminates all sorts of the contractor's troubles.

For instance, can your mechanics apply asbestos cement to a boiler or other surface so that when dried it will not be likely to crack?

One of our correspondents, who has, by the way, applied *barrels* of cement in his earlier days, offers the following suggestion:

In applying asbestos cement, apply a first coat with corrugations, (hills and valleys) in its top surface instead of smoothing the surface off nice and flat. The drawing will probably show you what is meant.

When this layer dries, instead of developing cracks, the thin part (or the valley of the corrugation) will dry first and have a tendency to pull down the material in the hill of the corrugation, thus evening it up slightly without cracking.



The second layer is applied with a flat top surface—but in this case the under part of the second layer will be corrugated because the second layer will have to fill up the valleys of the first layer. This second layer will dry in the same manner as the first and no cracking should result.

Try this out on your next job and see how it works.

WAGE NOTES

The American Contractor in commenting on general wage scales, notes the trend of decrease in the number of wage increases and a corresponding addition to the number of wage cuts.

During the month of June, for instance, 13 wage increases were reported, and 10 wage cuts went into effect. This is the largest number of cuts occurring in the same month since 1922 when 15 wage reductions were reported.

So far this year 27 local crafts have had wages reduced while 85 crafts have secured increases. During the first half of 1927, 22 wage reductions were reported with 262 increases.

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Asbestos Yarn Machinery

We wish to call to your attention that we can supply asbestos yarn manufacturers (and have for many years) the following machines:—

Automatic Card Feeds

Breaker and Finisher Full Roller Cards

Camel Back Feeds

Derby Doublers

Condensers

Spinning Frames

Ring Twisters

Flyer Twisters

WHITIN MACHINE WORKS

Whitinsville, Mass., U. S. A.

Charlotte, N. C. **Atlanta, Ga.**

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This page devoted each month to the discussion of brake lining activities by the Asbestos Brake Lining Association

Motor vehicle taxes in 1927 amounted to more than $760,000,000.

Less than 12% of the automobiles in the country are owned in cities of 500,000 population or more.

There are 575,000 miles of surfaced roads in the United States.

The Johns-Manville "Brake Reliners Manual", which has for the past two years been considered an authoritative book on brakes and their troubles has been revised and greatly added to. It is expected off the press shortly, as is also their flat rate guide for brake relining stations, greatly enlarged.

Half of the automobile trips of the average persons are for less than 20 miles, according to traffic tabulation by the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads.

AUTOMOBILE PRODUCTION

Total production of automobiles in the United States and Canada during June 1928 was 425,113, (396,714 in the United States and 28,399 in Canada) consisting of 381,780 passenger cars and 43,333 trucks.

May 1928 production was 460,038; June 1927 production was 341,175.

Total automobile production for the first half of 1928 was 2,326,885 while during the first six months of 1927, 2,195,155 motor vehicles were produced.

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CYPRUS ASBESTOS COMPANY

LIMITED



SOLE SELLING AGENTS

CYPRUS TRADING CORPORATION, Ltd.

49 ST. JAMES'S STREET, LONDON, S. W. I.

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Imports into U. S. A.

Unmanufactured Asbestos.

	June 1927 Tons (2240 lbs.)	Value	June 1928 Tons (2240 lbs.)	Value
Africa (Br. S.)	322	$ 45,044	158	$ 23,034
Africa (Port. E.)	184	47,134	189	47,027
Africa (Other Port.)	27	6,150	...	...
Africa (Morocco)	...	...	7	1,741
Canada	15,916	548,656	14,564	547,010
Germany	126	22,630	64	14,862
Italy	5	964	...	...
United Kingdom	25	5,078	50	10,972
	16,605	$675,656	15,032	$644,646
Tabulation of Crude only:				
Africa (Br. S.)	322	45,044	113	18,528
Africa (Port. E.)	184	47,134	189	47,027
Africa (Other Port.)	27	6,150	...	...
Africa (Morocco)	...	...	7	1,741
Canada	451	117,902	408	95,151
Germany	95	21,718	42	11,991
Italy	5	964	...	...
United Kingdom	25	5,078	50	10,972
	1,109	$243,990	809	$185,410

Of the remaining material imported during June 1928, 22 tons of Mill Fibre valued at $2,871, came from Germany; 45 tons of Mill Fibre, valued at $4,506 came from British South Africa, while 5,300 tons of Mill Fibre valued at $316,196 and 8,856 tons of Lower Grades valued at $135,663 came from Canada.

Manufactured Asbestos Goods:

	June 1927 Pounds	Value	June 1928 Pounds	Value
Yarn—				
United Kingdom	27,428	$ 7,796	17,726	$ 5,077
Fabrics, Woven—				
United Kingdom	24,420	8,109	3,451	2,720
Packing, Fabric—				
United Kingdom	739	427	27	24

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ASBESTOS

	June 1927 Pounds	June 1927 Value	June 1928 Pounds	June 1928 Value
Packing, not Fabric—				
Canada	120	83	...	...
Germany	454	96	1,393	420
United Kingdom	8,136	2,238	3,097	1,219
Shingles, Slate, Wood and Lumber—				
Belgium	7,177,198	102,266	2,472,878	105,802
Canada	70,023	3,441	13,870	312
France	622,970	10,526	99,172	3,482
Germany	...	...	59,524	1,037
Netherlands	727,079	11,713	794,398	13,023
United Kingdom	...	...	3,200	193
	8,597,270	127,946	3,443,042	123,849
Asbestos Cement—				
Canada	...	...	32,815	1,820
Other Manufactures—				
Austria	480	1,051	...	...
Belgium	414	26	...	...
Canada	3,190	178	...	...
France	212	52	...	...
Germany	583	376	...	...
Italy	50	8	...	...
United Kingdom	11,662	5,020	13,120	1,312
	16,591	6,711	13,120	1,312
Grand Total	*8,675,158*	*$153,406*	*3,514,671*	*$136,441*

Shingles, Slate, Wood or Lumber—By Districts.

	June 1928 Pounds	June 1928 Value
Florida	562,466	$ 10,497
Galveston	221,800	3,394
Georgia	142,779	1,047
Massachusetts	163,160	2,841
Mobile	37,400	674
New York	817,900	17,577
New Orleans	346,828	5,026
Philadelphia	1,018,536	80,727
Pittsburg	85,535	1,100
St. Lawrence	12,870	300
Vermont	1,000	12
Wisconsin	3,200	193
North Carolina	29,568	461
	3,443,042	$123,849
Previous month (May 1928) See July number	*9,370,535*	*$130,218*

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Exports from U. S. A.

Exports of unmanufactured Asbestos during the month of May[1] 1928 totalled 138 tons, valued at $61,614. There were no exports of unmanufactured asbestos in May[1] 1927.

Exports of manufactured asbestos goods:

	May[1] 1927		May[1] 1928	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Paper, Mlbd. & Rlbd.	341,897	$15,936	166,421	$11,192
Pipe Covg. & Cement	451,316	28,876	389,105	23,981
Textiles, Yarn & Pkg.	150,356	79,725	161,703	88,119
Brake & Clutch Lin'g.	59,268	34,533	729,968 lin. ft.	137,844
Asbestos Roofing	3,265 sqs.	38,501	5,182 sqs.	21,872
Magnesia & Mfrs. of	501,091	33,413	611,322	33,130
Other Asbestos Mfrs.	138,680	27,668	142,961	31,923

Exports of Raw Asbestos from Canada

	June 1927		June 1928	
	Tons (2000 lbs.)	Value	Tons (2000 lbs.)	Value
United Kingdom	1,099	$ 80,333	855	$ 70,675
United States	7,095	415,704	5,800	432,608
Australia	219	15,330	35	2,625
Belgium	532	35,860	582	37,445
Denmark	...	...	40	5,000
France	1.155	80,025	425	25,275
Germany	2,427	159,178	1,260	105,084
Italy	165	17,700	476	45,229
Japan	458	24,967	418	22,938
Netherlands	279	23,540	491	29,451
Spain	22	1,210	42	2,640
	13,451	$853,847	10,424	$778,970
Sand and Waste—				
United Kingdom	285	5,785	234	5,385
United States	9,118	137,541	9,158	139,676
Belgium	60	900	110	3,150
France	60	1,125	...	...
Germany	320	7,129	210	5,100
Netherlands	231	3,972	568	13,500
	10,074	$ 156,452	10,280	$166,811
Grand Total	*23,525*	*$1,010,299*	*20,704*	*$945,781*

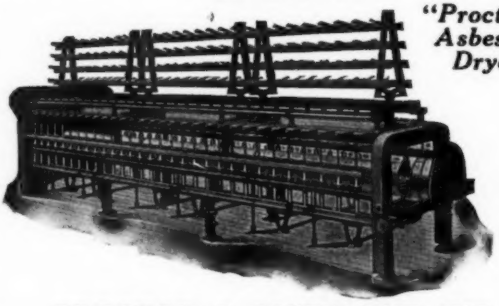
[1]Export figures are one month behind import figures.

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ASBESTOS YARN MACHINERY

"Smith-Furbush"

"Proctor" Asbestos Dryers



PROCTOR & SCHWARTZ, INC.

Formerly Smith & Furbush Machine Co.

Seventh St. & Tabor Rd., Philadelphia, Pa.

Nederlandsche Asbest My.

Importers of Asbestos
Crudes and Fibres

ROTTERDAM - HOLLAND

Tel. Address:
Nedam Rotterdam

P. O. BOX 803

Codes
A B.C. 5th & 6th Edition
Western Union
Lieber's Code
Lieber's Latest Code
Bentley's Complete
Phrase Code

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Imports and Exports by England

Imports of Raw Material

	June 1927 Tons (2240 lbs.)	Value	June 1928 Tons (2240 lbs.)	Value
From Rhodesia	1,864	£ 55,112	1,210	£ 46,184
From Canada	1,120	18,065	954	16,556
From Other Countries	597	17,078	1,146	29,271
	3,581	90,255	3,310	92,011
Re-Shipments	178	6,709	419	15,126

Exports of Manufactured Asbestos Goods

To Netherlands	112	5,790	103	7,554
To France	35	7,606	51	9,743
To United States of America	156	4,850	15	3,035
To British India	704	14,655	560	14,182
To Australia	45	4,909	40	5,984
To Other Countries	1,752	77,877	2,291	96,463
	2,804	£115,687	3,060	£136,961

BUILDING

During June contracts were awarded for 20,011 projects, containing 94,381,100 square feet of floor space, with a value of $650,466,200. This being slightly less than May when the figures were 20,510 projects, 95,256,300 square feet of floor space, and $668,097,200 valuation.

For the first six months of 1928 the figures were 104,798 projects, 504,552,300 square feet of floor space, with a value of $3,444,867,500. While for the first six months of 1927 contracts were awarded for 90,913 projects, with 432,424,700 square feet of floor space, valued at $3,187,993,300.

If any one knows the whereabouts of Charles Caruso we would appreciate receiving his address as one of our subscribers wishes to get in touch with him. Mr. Caruso's chief activity is the installation of asbestos textile machinery.

The New York Automobile Show will be held in the Grand Central Palace January 5th to 12th, and the Philadelphia Show in the Commercial Museum, January 12th to 19th.

WANTED—GENERAL MANAGER

For growing concern in insulation, Michigan territory. Must be experienced in manufacturing, sales work and capable of taking full charge. Young man preferred. Reply, giving qualifications, present employment and salary, to Box 7M-d, "ASBESTOS."

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Africa (Rhodesia)	April 1928 Tons (2000 lbs.)	Value		
Bulawayo District.				
Nil Desperandum (Af. Asb. Mng. Co., Ltd.)	700.05	£15.258	0	0
Pangani (J. S. Hancock)	33.48	451	19	0
Shabani (Rho. & Gen. Asb. Corp., Ltd.)	1,539.37	30,787	8	0
Lomagundi District.				
Ethel (Union & Rho. Tr. Ltd.)	53.10	880	0	0
Victoria District.				
Gath's (R. & Gen. Asb. Corp. Ltd.)	670.82	13,416	8	0
King (R. & Gen. Asb. Corp. Ltd.)	348.16	6,963	4	0
	3,344.98	£67,756	19	0
Less overdeclared on adjustment to 3/3/27 (Gaths)		783	17	10
	3,344.98	£66,973	1	2
Production during April 1927	*3,170*	*£65,248*		

Africa (Union of South Africa)	April 1928 Tons (2000 lbs.)	Value
Transvaal		
Amosite	631.00	£ 6,310
Chrysotile	935.00	17,407
Blue	19.00	740
	1,585.00	£24,457
Cape		
Blue	362.72	7,552
	1,947.72	£32,009
Production during April 1927	*2,265.29*	*£31,221*

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NEWS OF THE INDUSTRY



Birthdays. Our birthday list this month contains the following names: H. S. Mikesell, President, The Mikesell Company, Chicago, Ill., whose birthday occurs on August 16th; Harold W. Davis, Manager Eternit, Inc., Jacksonville, Fla., on August 25th; J. Gillmur Tyson, President, American Asbestos Company, Norristown, Pa., on August 25th; Harrison S. Sweet, Manager Oneida Plant, Mohawk Asbestos Slate Company, on August 28th; C. M. Clarke, President, Sall Mountain Company, Chicago, Ill., on September 3rd; E. Schaaf-Regelman, New York City, on September 11th; and B. Marcuse, President Canadian Asbestos Company, Montreal, P. Q., Canada, on September 11th.

South African Townships, Mining and Finance Corporation, Limited, Clewer House, Johannesburg, in their 28th Annual Report, state that during 1927 asbestos interests have been acquired and exploratory work gives every indication of favorable results.

Braiding & Packing Works of America, Inc., of Brooklyn, N. Y., are issuing quite attractive circulars advertising their Brapaco Calking Packings.

The Ric-Wil Company, Inc., announce the removal of their New York Office to 101 Park Avenue, Room 924, Architects Building. C. W. Lemmerman is Manager of the New York Branch.

The Raybestos Company, of Bridgeport, Conn., some time ago entered suit against the Johns-Manville Company for infringement of certain patents on molded and homogenous clutch facings made from material other than woven tape. After an examination of the patents, their validity was acknowledged and, as a result, The Raybestos Company has granted licenses to the Johns-Manville

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Company, Multibestos Company, Russell Manufacturing Company, and the Manhattan Rubber Manufacturing Company under said Raybestos patents.

The Raybestos Company has been making molded clutch facings for a number of years with marked success. This type of facing has been adopted by many of the leading manufacturers of automobiles and makers of clutches for factory equipment as well as replacement service.

A. W. Koehler, Sr., President, Asbestos Textile Company, New York City, sailed on Saturday, July 21st, for a business and pleasure trip abroad.

Giffa. Our June issue stated that Giffa, the wallboard made by Societe Francaise De L'Everite, Plaine St. Denis, France, was made in seven shades. As a matter of fact this material is made in 27 shades. Samples of this material are in this office and will be sent to anyone upon request.

Japan. Producers or suppliers of Asbestos in Canada and the United States desiring to have representation in Japan, should get in touch with this office.

Victoria Rhodesia Asbestos Limited, Victoria, Rhodesia, was registered on the 3rd of July, 1928, with a capital of £2,000 with the object of acquiring and working asbestos mines in any part of the world. The provisional directors are W. H. Walford and W. J. Yoeman.

Premier Asbestos Mines of South Africa, has been recently formed with a capital of £250,000. The property contains over 2,000 asbestos claims and part of it has been developed with very good results according to reports. Working capital has all been underwritten and no appeal will be made for public subscriptions.

Australian & General Asbestos Company, was registered on June 25th, with a nominal capital of £100,000, the object of the company being to acquire in Western Australia or elsewhere asbestos and other minerals. Registered offices are 109-111, Moorgate Station Chambers, London, E. C. 2. The Directors are George Perce Ashmore, 62 Kensington Mansions, London, S. W. 5 (director of West African Diamonds, Ltd.) acting chairman; Frederick Charles Harbott, 36 Camomile Street, London, E. C. 2, asbestos merchant; William Arthur Cecil Martin, The Close, Snettisham, Norwalk, Engineer. The particular purpose of the company is to enter into an agreement with Alfred Guderley for the purchase of four mineral bases near Sherlock, in the district of West Pilbara, Western Australia, comprising a total area of about 186 acres. These properties are about 15 miles west of Whim Creek and 20 miles from the Port of Balla Balla. R. C. Wilson, assistant State mining engineer to the West Australian Government states that the asbestos is of the chrysotile variety.

Mashaba Rhodesian Asbestos Company, has been formed

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to acquire 26 asbestos blocks comprising 1,500 acres in Southern Rhodesia. The Chairman is Henry Dubbs-Lorimer of the United Mining & General Trust.

Shabanie Mines (Rhodesian & General Asbestos Company), according to the Rhodesia Herald, are laying down additional power units in order to cope with the increased demand for asbestos. Very shortly the power plant will be increased from 1,300 HP. to 2,600 HP. There are at present some 170 white men employed at Shabanie and 3,600 natives. This number will be considerably increased when the new plant is installed and in full operation.

The new plant on the Birthday mine is almost completed, and will be driven electrically from the Shabanie Mine.

E. R. Williams, engineer in charge of the Insulation Testing Laboratory of the Johns-Manville Corporation, at Manville, N. J., has recently been appoined a member of the Heat Insulation Committee of the National Research Council and of the Sub-Committee on Test Codes for the Steam Temperature Range.

F. T. Phillips, formerly salesman, has been promoted to the position of Sales Supervisor for the Memphis District, Johns-Manville Corporation.

R. W. Hoffman has been appointed Sales Supervisor for Johns-Manville Corporation at Kansas City, Mo.

Johns-Manville Corporation. J. M. Gano, for many years a capable foreman of construction in the Central Division of Johns-Manville Corporation has been appointed to the newly created position of roofing inspector with headquarters at Cleveland.

Lonsdale Green, Jr., Sales Supervisor, acoustical section, Eastern Division, Johns-Manville Corporation, sailed for London, England, on July 9th to superintendent the first big foreign construction job of acoustical treatment. The order came from The Sun Life Assurance Company of London.

J. T. Spicer, Staff Manager of the automotive section, merchandising department, Johns-Manville Corporation, New York City, and President of the Asbestos Brake Lining Association. is receiving congratulations on the birth of a son, John Thomas Spicer, Jr., born July 5th.

Hardy & Co., of Sydney, Australia, have taken over the Pangani Mine of Filabusi, on tribute from J. S. Hancock, and expect to work it on a fairly large scale. The Pangani Mine has been supplying part of the requirements of Mr. Hancock's factories in Durban and Johannesburg, but as he has recently opened up two large properties in the Pietersburg District all his requirements can be supplied from those sources.

Chunes Asbestos Limited, recently formed by J. S. Hancock for the development of two properties in the Pietersburg District, give promise of large tonnages. Already in the de-

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velopment stage 40 to 50 tons per month of fibre has been mined. The quality of the fibre is between the amosite and chrysotile variety, and will likely be used for spinning as well as for the manufacture of asbestos cement products.

Mapeke Asbestos Mines, Limited, Mashaba, Southern Rhodesia, with registered offices at 122/3 Moorgate Station Chambers, E. C. 2, London, England, has recently been formed with a capital of £100,000 (400,000 shares of 5/—each, of which 312,000 have been issued and are fully paid, leaving 88,000 shares in reserve).

The company has purchased an asbestos property in Rhodesia, known as the Monarch Group, comprising four mines of 30 claims each, in a forward state of development. The properties (according to prospectus) are located on the main strike of the Asbestos Serpentine formation, at a distance of approximately two miles from, and midway between, the two largest producing Mines of the Mashaba District, and within 20 miles, by a good road, of Fort Victoria Railway Station on the Rhodesian Railways. The Asbestos is of the chrysotile variety.

Major J. Ernest Hodgson, B. Sc., is resident Mines Manager, and A. G. Pryce-Williams, whom some of our readers may remember as having been in the States back in 1923. has been appointed Consulting Engineer. The Commercial Agents are The Asbestos Supply Company, 19, St. Dunstan's Hill, London, E. C. 3.

Mr. Williams, who is at present in London, is leaving shortly for Rhodesia, to take up his new duties with Mapeke Asbestos Mines, Limited, and also act as Consulting Engineer for two other newly formed companies in that country.

Keasbey & Mattison Company. William Jacobsen, recently associated with the Asbestos & Mineral Corporation, New York City, has been appointed Sales Manager of the Fibre Department of the Keasbey & Mattison Company at Ambler, Penna., who are Sales Agents for the Bell Asbestos Mines, Inc., at Thetford Mines, P. Q., Canada.

African Asbestos Company, Limited (Rhodesia) has taken an option on the occurrence of chrysotile asbestos near Mulder's Drift, in the Krugersdorp District(South Africa) which has been developed by George Kent, of Johannesburg.

African Asbestos Company Limited, (Rhodesia) must not be confused with the recently floated African Asbestos Trust. Limited, the latter being a Transvaal registration, fully described on page 44 of the July issue.

South African Consolidated Asbestos, Limited, reports that a programme of extensive development has been arranged by the directors and is being vigorously pursued, and to insure that the permanent plant will be one that will give the most efficient results, it has been decided to carry out experiments in the method of treatment of the fibre by means of a small pilot plant which will shortly be erected.

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ASBESTOS FIBRE SPINNING COMPANY

NORTH WALES, — PENNA.

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Prieska. According to the South African Mining & Engineering Journal there are about 23 farms or mines near Prieska which have been producing steadily for a year or more, some few having, of course, been continuously worked for 20 years. L. Schoeman, B Sc., is at present making a study of the asbestos deposits in the Prieska district and, it is believed, intends to continue his examination thruout the whole range of crocidolite and amosite occurrences up to Northern Transvaal.

Active work is being carried on north of the Molopo River, on the borders of the Kalahari, 150 miles from the railway and 20 miles from the nearest water. Samples of blue asbestos from this district, however, are said to be up to 6 inches and more in length, and well worth the high transportation cost.

The South African Government attaches so much importance to the activities in asbestos mining in the Pietersburg district, that a series of meetings was held during June, to discuss the question of transport of the large tonnage of asbestos which will undoubtedly be produced in this area during the next twelve months.

The various producers met with Government Officials (Inspector of Mines, Mining Commissioner, etc.)

The immediate necessity for putting the road from Pietersburg to Malips Drift into good condition was stressed by all parties. In the near future as development takes place the proposal for a road over Beyer Nek or the extension of the railway from Zebedrela to the asbestos fields must be considered seriously.

Keasbey & Mattison Company. Dr. Mattison, President of the Company, in commenting upon the suit noted in our last issue, stated that he did not regard the controversy as being very serious, it being, to his mind, only aditional evidence of the aged plaintiff's fast approaching senility. He furhter stated that the plaintiff, Henry G. Keasbey, has been away from all business affairs for the past thirty-five years, and was altogether unfamiliar with either the mining of, the characteristics of, or the trade in Asbestos, or its products, and therefore, could scarcely be cognizant of the importance of the accusations that he had made.

PATENTS

Friction Materials, Method of Impregnating Base. Granted on June 5th. to Izador J. Novak, Bridgeport, Conn., Assignor to Raybestos Company, Bridgeport, Conn. Filed Sept. 10, 1924. Serial No. 736,870. (Contains Asbestos).

Elastic Insulating Material. No. 1,672,639. Granted on June 5th to Edwin W. Davis, Cloquet, Minn., Assignor to Wood Conversion Co. Filed May 9, 1925. Serial No. 29,037. (Not asbestos).

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THIS AND THAT

Those Good Old Days

I heard an engineer deplore those "good old days" that "are no more." and said to him:

"My friend, you make a most egregious mistake, and I will show you right away that you are better off today. Why formerly, your engine room was nothing but a cave of gloom. Above it, time and weatherproof, you had no super-built-up roof; your pipes and boilers, all forlorn, resembled Miss September Morn since no one ever called to tell of Sponge-Felt and Asbestocel. Our salesman never told you chaps that you could do with one-ball traps, and not one smoke stack could you find that was with Vitribestos lined."

He looked up with a sheepish grin: "Put her there, my Friend, you win. Your arguments are sane and sound; Asbestos makes the world go round."—From the J. M. Power Specialist.

—

"What do you mean, your lowest price?" said the Big Corona.

"What I mean by the lowest price," said the Timid Panatela, in a sudden access of courage, "is that price at which I am willing to take your business, and below which you can take it somewhere else."

One of our readers expects to spend his vacation on a motor trip thru Canada, and while there will have a look at the Asbestos Mines in Thetford. Quite a good idea! We hope he will tell us about it in the September number.

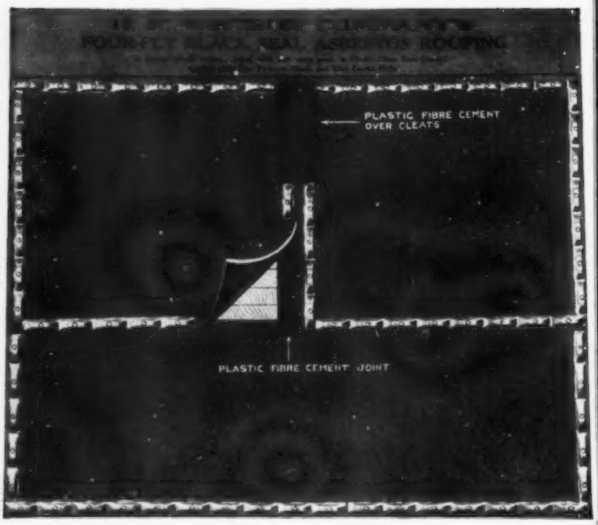
—

A patrolman brought in a negro woman. The desk sergeant scowled and roared at her:

"Liza, you've been brought in for intoxication."

"Dat's fine!" beamed Liza. "Boy, you can start right now!"

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