Asbestos

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GENERAL SUMMARY

ASBESTOS is a group term including several mineral varieties having different compositions, value, properties, and uses. The bulk of the asbestos consumed is of the chrysotile variety, and considerable quantities of amosite and blue (crocidolite) are required for special uses. Tremolite, anthophyllite, and actinolite have minor significance. Certain grades of amosite and long-fiber, low-iron chrysotile have been designated as strategic, and Congress has authorized stock piling, but shortage of supply on the world market has limited procurement. Although the United States produces no amosite or blue and only about 6 percent of its chrysotile requirements, it consumes a major part of the world's production. Domestic consumption rose to 616,787 short tons, a 34-percent increase over 1946, while domestic production reached a record 25,139 short tons, a 74-percent increase over 1946, but only 4 percent of our volume requirements. Imports provided 96 percent of the asbestos used in the United States in 1947; Canada supplied 91 percent, while Southern Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa together supplied 5 percent. Demand exceeded supply throughout 1947, and industry stocks were low. Demand for virtually all commercial grades increased and was particularly strong for fiber used in asbestos-cement products and floor tile. Domestic production came principally from Vermont, with minor amounts from Arizona, North Carolina, Georgia, and California. Prices of all grades of Canadian and Vermont fiber (except Canadian Crude No. 1) increased in 1947. Canada led in world production, with about 69 percent of the estimated world total.

Salient statistics of the asbestos industry in the United States, 1946–47

	1946		1947	
	Short tons	Value	Short tons	Value
Domestic asbestos—				
Produced:				
Chrysotile	13,989	(1)	24,462	(1)
Amphibole	437	(1)	677	(1)
Total produced	14,426	(1)	25,139	(1)
Sold or used by producers:				
Chrysotile	13,645	$499,260	23,586	$912,340
Amphibole	430	5,504	449	6,218
Total sold or used by producers	14,075	504,764	24,035	918,558
Imports (unmanufactured)	456,688	18,731,378	594,839	29,821,519
Exports (unmanufactured)	11,011	1,395,367	2,087	316,414
Apparent consumption [2]	459,752	17,840,775	616,787	30,423,663
Exports of asbestos products	(1)	9,263,092	(1)	12,823,480

[1] Figure not available.
[2] Quantity sold or used by producers, plus imports, minus exports.

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RESERVES

The following statement on reserves of asbestos in 1944 was prepared by the Bureau of Mines and Geological Survey and is quoted from a report on The Mineral Position of the United States, published in the hearings before a subcommittee of the Committee on Public Lands, United States Senate, Eightieth Congress, First Session, 1947:

Because of the generally inadequate data on the extent of chrysotile deposits in the United States, or the quality or grade of the contained asbestos, estimates of reserves are only approximate. On the basis of present information it is believed that the United States reserves of chrysotile asbestos of all grades total about 750,000 short tons, of which not more than 4,000 tons consist of long fiber. The annual domestic demand for long-fiber chrysotile is about 17,000 tons.

PRODUCTION

A record volume of 25,139 short tons of asbestos was mined in 1947, 74 percent more than in 1946. Vermont and Arizona produced chrysotile, while North Carolina, Georgia, and California produced amphibole. No new domestic deposits have been reported, although prospecting has been active.

Asbestos sold or used by producers in the United States, 1943–47, by varieties

Year	Chrysotile		Amphibole		Total	
	Short tons	Value	Short tons	Value	Short tons	Value
1943	3,900	$302,289	2,114	$32,526	6,014	$334,815
1944	6,275	373,112	392	7,222	6,667	380,334
1945	11,986	442,056	240	3,989	12,226	446,045
1946	13,645	499,260	430	5,504	14,075	504,764
1947	23,586	912,340	449	6,218	24,035	918,558

Alaska.—The Arctic Circle Exploration Co., Candle, Alaska, has produced tremolite and chrysotile from the Kobuk River district in recent years, but no production was reported for 1947.

Arizona.—The Arizona Chrysotile Asbestos Co., Globe, mined and milled fiber from the Regal mine. Guy G. Phillips of Globe produced from the Phillips mine. Arthur Enders purchased, milled, and resold asbestos but did not mine in 1947. Charles Ireland of Globe produced a small quantity from the Fiber King mine, Gila County. Total sales of asbestos fiber were higher than in 1946. A recent report [1] described Gila County deposits.

California.—Homer E. Fenn, Hazel Creek, reported tremolite production from the Loma Blanca mine, Shasta County. H. Zimdars and J. Delume reported amphibole production from Placer County, and the Powhatan Mining Co. (Woodland, Baltimore, Md.) produced tremolite from near Castella, Shasta County. Ray J. Sylvester of Mount Shasta produced tremolite in Shasta County near Dunsmuir.

Georgia.—Powhatan Mining Co. was the sole producer of amphibole. The mine is near Dillard, Rabun County.

North Carolina.—The Powhatan Mining Co. was the only producer in North Carolina. The mine is near Dillard, Ga., just across the State line in Macon County, N. C.

[1] Stewart, Lincoln A., and Haury, P. S., Arizona Asbestos Deposits, Gila County, Ariz.: Bureau of Mines Rept. of Investigations 4100, 1947, 28 pp.

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Vermont.—The Ruberoid Co., 500 Fifth Ave., New York 18, N. Y., was the largest producer of asbestos in the United States in 1947. The mine is near Eden, Vt. Output (all chrysotile) was substantially greater than in 1946.

CONSUMPTION AND USES

The apparent domestic consumption of asbestos in the United States increased 34 percent in volume and 71 percent in value in 1947. Of the total consumption of asbestos about 97 percent is chrysotile, 2 percent amosite, and 1 percent blue. The major part of our chrysotile requirement is for grades that are used in asbestos-cement products, and a smaller amount for friction materials, insulating materials, textiles, molded products, packing, and gasket materials. Nearly all of the amosite is used for insulating products, and the blue for asbestos-cement pipe. Imported chrysotile is used for textiles and insulation.

Apparent consumption of raw asbestos in the United States, 1938–47

Year	Short tons	Value	Year	Short tons	Value
1938	187,150	$6,119,249	1943	445,902	$23,351,483
1939	255,547	9,388,496	1944	389,241	18,864,291
1940	262,199	10,259,836	1945	[1] 378,030	15,926,622
1941	438,741	18,309,005	1946	459,752	17,840,775
1942	[1] 433,949	21,582,096	1947	616,787	30,423,663

[1] Revised figure.

Figure 1 shows the relation of construction and industrial production to asbestos consumption from 1920 to 1947.

The value of asbestos-cement products manufactured in 1947 is estimated by the trade to be approximately 50 million dollars.

The demand for all grades of raw fiber was strong during 1947.

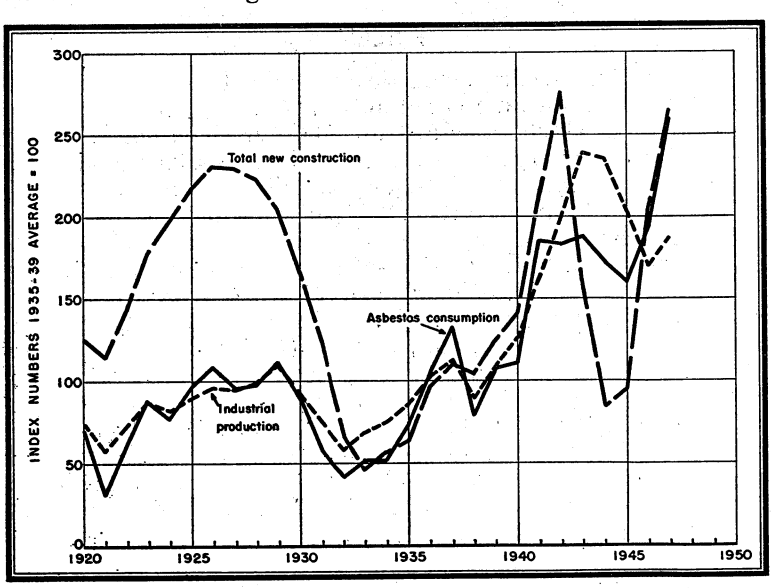


FIGURE 1.—Consumption of asbestos compared with total new construction and industrial production, 1920–47. Units are reduced to percentages of the 1935–39 average. Statistics on value of construction from Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and on industrial production from Federal Reserve Board.

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Shortage of fiber limited production of asbestos cement, corrugated and flat products, asbestos paper, and brake lining. In the textile line there was some decrease in demand. In the electrical and oil-burner-wicking business, demand was below expectation, while that for friction materials, safety clothing, and packing increased. The demand for asbestos mill board was steady.

Each variety of asbestos is marketed under a different set of specifications. Chrysotile is generally sold on a basis of fiber length; yet fiber strength, flexibility, and color are important considerations. Blue is valuable for fiber length, strength, and chemical resistance, amosite for its heat-insulation properties, and tremolite for its resistance to acids.

The following new products were reported [2] during 1947: Stonekote finish for buildings, tea towels of asbestos cloth, the Unibond process for relining brakes, "Rayflex"—an aluminum and asbestos roof coating, "Thermoflex" insulating blanket used in jet propelled aircraft, "Vee"-type packing, and low-density asbestos cement board. A more efficient railroad disk brake of asbestos composition was developed.

According to the magazine Asbestos about 50 patents were issued in 1947 on asbestos products; 6 were on friction materials, 7 on heat insulation materials, 5 on packing and gaskets, 8 on asbestos cement products, 3 on opening fiber, and the remainder on a miscellaneous assortment of uses. The world's largest brake lining, for use on a 22-foot hoist drum, was reported to have been made in 1947. There has been comparatively little progress in the development of synthetic fiber.

A new type of very thin asbestos paper (Terratex) was developed by the General Electric Co. for use as insulation in high-temperature electrical equipment.

Several publications on asbestos have been issued recently.[3]

PRICES

The price of all grades of crude and milled asbestos fiber, both Canadian and Vermont, increased in 1947 with the exception of Crude No. 1 Canadian, which remained at $800 per short ton throughout the year. Canadian prices were increased in February and again in November. The range of prices for Canadian Fiber in U. S. dollars, f. o. b. mine, as of January 10, 1947, per short ton, as quoted in the magazine, Asbestos, was as follows: Group 1 (Crude No. 1), $800; group 2 (Crude No. 2, Crude Run-of-Mine, and Sundry), $275–$495; group 3 (Spinning or Textile Fiber), $155–$286; group 4 (Shingle Fiber), $75–$102.50; group 5 (Paper Fiber), $52.50–$59; group 6 (Waste, Stucco, or Plaster), $39; group 7 (Refuse or Shorts), $17.50–$34. The prices on January 10, 1948, were: Group 1, $800; group 2, $302.50–$545; group 3, $170.50–$354.50; group 4, $82.50–$127.50; group 5, $58–$73.50; group 6, $43–$47.50; group 7, $19.50–$44.50.

The price of Vermont asbestos in short tons, f. o. b. Hyde Park or Morrisville, Vt., on January 10, 1948, was as follows: Shingle Fiber, $92.50–$102.50; Paper Fiber, $65–$73; Waste, Stucco, or Plaster, $48.50; Refuse or Shorts, $25.50–$44.50.

[2] Asbestos, vol. 29, No. 6, December 1947, pp. 4 and 6.

[3] OTS, U. S. Department of Commerce, Technical and Scientific Development Related to the Asbestos Industry of Germany, PB78290. 1947, 48 pp. Bowles, Oliver, Silk of the Mineral Kingdom, published by Ruberoid Co., December 1946, 39 pp. Construction Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, U. S. Department of Commerce, Asbestos Cement Products, March 1948, pp. 7–12.

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FOREIGN TRADE [4]

In 1947 imports increased 30 percent in quantity and 59 percent in value, while the volume of exports declined 81 percent compared with 1946.

As the United States depends upon foreign sources for 94 percent of its chrysotile, 100 percent of its amosite, and 100 percent of its blue requirements, an increase in foreign production will be necessary if the current domestic demand is to be satisfied. Meanwhile, conservation programs are required, and substitute materials utilized.

Asbestos imported for consumption in the United States, and asbestos and asbestos products exported from the United States, 1943–47

[U. S. Department of Commerce]

Year	Asbestos (unmanufactured)				Manufactured asbestos products—exports (value)
	Imports		Exports		
	Short tons	Value	Short tons	Value	
1943	440,255	$23,053,524	367	$36,856	$4,877,864
1944	383,049	18,542,940	475	58,983	5,614,243
1945	374,354	16,317,752	8,550	837,175	7,264,288
1946	456,688	18,731,378	11,011	1,395,367	9,263,092
1947	594,839	29,821,519	2,087	316,414	12,823,480

Asbestos (unmanufactured) imported for consumption in the United States, 1946–47,[1] by countries and classes

[U. S. Department of Commerce]

Country	Crude (including blue fiber)		Mill fibers		Short fibers		Total	
	Short tons	Value	Short tons	Value	Short tons	Value	Short tons	Value
1946								
Australia	24	$1,804					24	$1,804
Brazil	(2)	78					(2)	78
Canada	521	228,073	153,002	$10,362,252	288,550	$6,604,040	442,073	17,194,365
China	313	62,206					313	62,206
Italy	6	4,320	2	2,655			8	6,975
Southern Rhodesia	5,239	723,381	224	25,231			5,463	748,612
Union of South Africa	6,050	574,106					6,050	574,106
U. S. S. R.	2,750	142,294					2,750	142,294
United Kingdom	(2)	63					(2)	63
Venezuela			7	875			7	875
	14,903	1,736,325	153,235	10,391,013	288,550	6,604,040	456,688	18,731,378
1947								
Australia	(3)	198					(2)	198
Canada	497	264,148	162,302	13,936,784	396,480	11,053,272	559,279	25,254,204
Italy	4	2,318	4	4,855			8	7,173
Southern Rhodesia	[3] 8,894	[3] 1,735,167	98	15,484			[3] 8,992	[3] 1,750,651
Union of South Africa	20,031	2,144,528			3	88	20,034	2,144,616
U. S. S. R.	6,524	663,788					6,524	663,788
United Kingdom	1	705					1	705
Venezuela			1	184			1	184
	35,951	4,810,852	162,405	13,957,307	396,483	11,053,360	594,839	29,821,519

[1] Changes in Minerals Yearbook, 1946, p. 148, are as follows: 1945: Mill fibers, Canada, 137,764 tons, value, $9,109,641; total, 355,798 tons, $14,217,366. Crude, Southern Rhodesia, 2,670 tons, $560,022; total, 2,670 tons, $560,022. Totals: Crude, 19,336 tons, $2,394,244; mill fibers, 137,764 tons, $9,109,641; total, 374,354 tons, $16,317,752.

[2] Less than 1 ton.

[3] Includes 67 tons valued at $17,778 reported by the U. S. Department of Commerce as originating in Mozambique.

[4] Figures on imports and exports compiled by M. B. Price, of the Bureau of Mines, from records of the U. S. Department of Commerce.

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The United States imports about 85 percent of the Canadian production, 66 percent of the Union of South Africa production, and 17 percent of the output from Southern Rhodesia.

The following table shows exports of asbestos products in 1946 and 1947. The value of exports increased 38 percent.

Manufactured asbestos products exported from the United States, 1946–47,[1] by kinds

[U. S. Department of Commerce]

Products	1946		1947	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Brake blocks---short tons	220	$321, 387	312	$494, 165
Brake lining:				
Molded and semimolded---do	1, 248	1, 837, 752	1, 654	2, 907, 716
Not molded---linear feet	740, 670	368, 680	949, 449	552, 244
Clutch facing---number	1, 196, 241	500, 046	1, 636, 400	794, 688
Paper, millboard, and roll board---short tons	653	141, 837	1, 078	272, 823
Pipe covering and cement---do	1, 103	145, 010	2, 765	510, 887
Sheets---do	3, 644	434, 784	5, 292	641, 069
Textiles, yarn, and packing---do	2, 327	2, 674, 573	2, 101	2, 622, 055
Asbestos roofing---squares	129, 728	806, 182	164, 114	1, 152, 621
Other asbestos manufactures, except roofing---short tons	4, 870	939, 215	(2)	1, 186, 845
Magnesia and manufactures---do	17, 423	1, 093, 626	(2)	1, 688, 367
		9, 263, 092		12, 823, 480

[1] Changes in Minerals Yearbook, 1946, p. 149, are as follows: 1945: Other asbestos manufactures, except roofing, should read 6,049 tons, $1,208,301. Total value should read $7,264,288.
[2] Effective Jan. 1, 1947, quantity not recorded.

WORLD REVIEW

Sixty-nine percent of the estimated world production is from Canada. Although there are no recent data on Russian production, past records indicate that it ranks second; Southern Rhodesia is third, Union of South Africa fourth, Swaziland fifth, and the United States sixth.

About 81 percent of the estimated world production is furnished by areas under the political control of the British Empire. With the exception of Russia, the major asbestos-consuming countries of the world produce little or no asbestos.

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World production of asbestos, 1943–47, by countries, in metric tons [1]

[Compiled by P. Roberts]

Country [1]	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Argentina	349	292	153	(2)	(2)
Australia:					
New South Wales	422	2,598	2,674	(2)	(2)
South Australia	11	6	7	8	(2)
Tasmania	19	105	281		(2)
Western Australia	247	313	1,109	380	(2)
Bolivia (exports)	22	13	61	(2)	[3] 76
Canada (sales)[4]	423,831	380,349	423,559	506,371	600,391
Chile	(2)	(2)	313	280	(2)
China	[5] 20,000	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Cyprus (exports)	1,189	1,983	3,125	5,993	6,369
Egypt	7	240	[3] 50	65	(2)
Finland [6]	7,466	7,733	4,197	(2)	(2)
France	78	31	1,016	587	475
French Morocco	182	506	480	446	(2)
India	293	592	610	(2)	(2)
Indochina, French	312	242			(2)
Italy	[7] 7,419	(2)	4,811	8,814	10,440
Japan [8]	6,418	9,395	2,659	3,997	3,708
Kenya	321	341	389	[5] 165	(2)
Korea	5,310	4,117	(2)	(2)	(2)
Madagascar	(9)	3	1	1	(2)
New Zealand	190	17	2		(2)
Portugal	(2)	(2)	20	12	(2)
Southern Rhodesia	52,749	52,882	51,119	50,686	49,073
Spain	50				(2)
Swaziland	17,179	29,628	21,243	29,155	25,360
Switzerland	11	7	35	40	(2)
Turkey	133	231	138	55	(2)
Union of South Africa	32,347	31,372	25,597	18,348	27,344
United States (sold or used by producers)	5,456	6,048	11,091	12,769	21,804
Venezuela	(2)	(2)	(2)	65	(2)
Total (estimate)	632,500	596,800	627,400	726,500	872,700

[1] In addition to countries listed, asbestos is produced in Algeria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Uganda, and U. S. S. R. Estimates by author of chapter included in the total.
[2] Data not available; estimates by author of chapter included in total.
[3] January to September, inclusive.
[4] Exclusive of sand, gravel, and stone (waste rock only), production of which is reported as follows: 1943, 6,272 tons; 1944, 4,101 tons; 1945–47 data not available.
[5] Estimate.
[6] Includes asbestos flour.
[7] January to June, inclusive.
[8] Preliminary.
[9] Less than 1 ton.

CANADA

The 1947 tonnage and value of asbestos in the Province of Quebec, Canada, attained a new record; volume increased 19 percent and value increased 31 percent over 1946.

The statistics in the accompanying table of Canadian sales of asbestos were supplied by the Department of Mines of the Province of Quebec.

Turner and Newhall, Ltd., plans erection of a large asbestos-cement plant at Montreal.

Canadian Johns-Manville Co., Ltd., has recently erected a 60,000-ton ore-storage building at Asbestos, Quebec. The building is 496 feet long and 90 feet wide and contains adequate storage for 6½ to 9 days' supply for the mill.[5]

[5] Asbestos, vol. 29, No. 7, January 1948, p. 42.

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Sales of asbestos in Canada, 1946–47, by grades

	1946			1947 [1]		
	Short tons	Value		Short tons	Value	
		Total	Average per ton		Total	Average per ton
Grade:						
Crudes	742	$334,925	$451.38	958	$503,137	$525.20
Fibers	228,234	17,181,400	75.28	222,196	20,221,444	91.01
Shorts	329,205	7,724,237	23.46	438,667	12,281,167	28.00
	558,181	25,240,562	45.22	661,821	33,005,748	49.87
Rock mined	9,127,859			9,837,045		
Rock milled	7,027,483			7,740,828		

[1] Preliminary.

AFRICA

Southern Rhodesia.—The asbestos production of Southern Rhodesia has remained virtually constant since 1936. In 1947 production dropped by 3 percent, but the value increased 4 percent.

Considerable activity has recently been taking place in the asbestos industry. Several new companies have entered or are about to enter the field.

The Mashaba-Rhodesian Asbestos Co., which operates the Mashaba mine and also owns claims in the Shabanie area, is to reopen the Croft mine, which was closed in the 1930–32 depression. Production at the Croft mine is expected to begin early in 1949.

Vanguard Asbestos Mines, a new company, has acquired extensive claims in the Belingwe area. It has been reported that the length of the asbestos strike is 2½ miles and the width just under one-half mile. Development work was expected to start immediately.[6] South African and Swiss capital are backing this venture. An asbestos-cement plant is in operation at Salisbury.

Asbestos produced in Southern Rhodesia, 1943–47

Year	Short tons	Value	Year	Short tons	Value
1943	58,146	£1,673,025	1946	55,872	£1,676,503
1944	58,293	1,674,467	1947	54,094	1,738,484
1945	56,349	1,788,386			

Swaziland.—The world production table shows that chrysotile production in 1947 decreased 13 percent to 25,360 metric tons. The entire production of Swaziland is from the Havelock Asbestos mines, which began to produce in 1939. The parent company is New Amianthus Mines, Ltd., owned by Turner & Newhall, Ltd. This firm is a large company with world-wide interest. Through subsidiary companies, it owns and operates 12 large factories in United Kingdom, 3 in India, and 3 in the United States, as well as mines in South

[6] South African Mining and Engineering Journal, vol. 58, part 2, No. 2867, Jan. 24, 1948, p. 558.

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Africa and the Bell mine in Quebec. Swaziland ranks third as a producer of chrysotile asbestos [7] in the British Empire.

Union of South Africa.—Asbestos production reached a record high of 30,142 short tons in 1947. Total exports were 33,237 short tons valued at £927,371.

The Cape Asbestos Co. finds it difficult to increase its blue output because of the hardness of the rock and other local conditions; in the amosite mines the rate of production (Egnep, Ltd.) increased satisfactorily and continued to rise, according to the company annual report for 1947.

Asbestos produced in and exported from the Union of South Africa, 1943–47 [1]

Year	Production (short tons)			Exports	
	Transvaal	Cape Province	Total	Short tons	Value
1943	27,768	7,888	35,656	35,940	£880,019
1944	26,747	7,835	34,582	28,174	672,941
1945	20,016	8,200	28,216	22,005	591,124
1946	12,636	7,589	20,225	21,481	557,008
1947	21,959	8,183	30,142	33,237	927,371

[1] Data from Union of South Africa, Department of Mines, Quarterly Report.

Asbestos produced in the Union of South Africa, 1943–47, by varieties and sources in short tons [1]

Variety and source	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Amosite (Transvaal)	23,189	22,848	16,737	9,838	18,780
Chrysotile (Transvaal)	2,034	2,014	1,765	1,666	2,253
Blue (Transvaal)	2,456	1,831	1,471	1,102	896
Blue (Cape)	7,888	7,835	8,200	7,589	8,183
Anthophyllite (Transvaal)	89	54	43	30	30
Total	35,656	34,582	28,216	20,225	30,142

[1] Data from Union of South Africa Department of Mines, Quarterly Report.

A new asbestos-cement plant was recently opened near Nigal. This brings to seven the asbestos-cement plants in the Union, including one at Capetown, three in the Transvaal, one at Durban, and one in Johannesburg.

South Africa produces all of the world's amosite, most of the world's blue, and a small amount of chrysotile and anthophyllite. The accompanying table shows the distribution by variety and sources of the different types of asbestos mined in the Union of South Africa, according to the Department of Mines Quarterly Report. Noteworthy is the 91-percent increase in production of amosite above 1946 and the small changes in volume of production of other types.

Madagascar.—The right to search for asbestos in any form (chrysotile, tremolite, crocidolite, amosite, etc.) in Madagascar is temporarily reserved to the Colony, according to a report received from the American consulate in Tananarive.

[7] Mining and Industrial Magazine, vol. 37, No. 3, March 1947, p. 149.

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OTHER COUNTRIES

Relatively minor but locally significant tonnages of asbestos are produced in many countries but do not enter into the world trade. Russia is known to have large deposits, and, on the basis of past production records, production is believed to be substantial. The 1936 output was 125,117 metric tons.

A Canadian company is reported to be interested in the Tinaquillo area in Venezuela. During the war eight new asbestos cement plants were built in Latin America—in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, and Peru. Their demand for shingle fiber is said to be 12,000 tons for 1947.

A new asbestos sheet factory has been set up at Petah Tikva near Tel Aviv, Palestine, according to the Mining Journal (London). Necessary machinery has been imported from Italy, and 1,000 tons of raw asbestos monthly will be imported from Cyprus.

The mining and milling of blue asbestos from the Wittenoom Gorge in the Hammersley Range, North Western Division, Western Australia, have been in the experimental stage for the past 3 years. Plans have been completed and work begun on erection of a township that will eventually house 1,000 people engaged in mining blue asbestos, according to the South African Mining and Engineering Journal. Lack of transportation in this area has hindered development of industry.

A high-quality asbestos source has been located recently in Joazeiro, Brazil.[8]

Asbestos is second in value of production among the minerals of Cyprus. It occurs in the serpentines in the Troödos Range and in Akamas Penninsula in the west. The present production is from the Amiandos Mines of Cyprus Asbestos Mines, Ltd. The 1947 production was about 7,500 short tons, valued at £260,000. The output for 1948 is estimated at 10,000 to 11,000 tons. The reserves of the large known deposits vary from 35 to 75 years at the 1946 rate of production. Prices have risen some 150 percent above prewar. The asbestos is mainly short fiber, the bulk of which is used in the cement-asbestos industry.[9]

[8] Chemical and Engineering News, vol. 25, No. 37, Sept. 15, 1947, p. 2654.
[9] Mining Journal (London), vol. 240, No. 5883, May 22, 1948, p. 380.

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