Asbestos

By Oliver Bowles [1] and Flora B. Mentch [2]

ALTHOUGH total production of asbestos in Canada, principal source for the United States, was somewhat smaller in 1952 than in 1951, the decline was confined largely to the shorts. Production of the better grades of mill fibers was higher than in 1951. The demand for groups 3 to 5 generally exceeded supply. During the first half of the year the demand for shorts was considerably lower than in 1951, but later in the year it increased until it equaled or exceeded supply.

Domestic sales exceeded those of 1951 by 4 percent and reached an alltime high. Arizona sales, which were a little higher than in 1951, were chiefly of the nonspinning grades. Amphibole asbestos sales, which were unusually small, were confined to Georgia.

Imports and apparent consumption were smaller than in 1951, but the decline was confined to the shorter grades. Imports of low-iron chrysotile, of spinning grades, from Southern Rhodesia continued to decline. As a great deal of interest is centered in fiber of this type, table 5 has been introduced into this chapter to show imports from Southern Rhodesia by grades.

As the demand for high-grade spinning fibers continues to exceed the supply, prices continued the upward trend that characterized recent years.

TABLE 1.—Salient statistics of the asbestos industry in the United States, 1943–47 (average) and 1948–52

	1943–47 (average)	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Domestic asbestos:						
Produced short tons	12,932	37,237	42,918	41,358	51,730	53,888
Sold or used do	12,603	37,092	43,387	42,434	51,645	53,864
Value	$516,903	$1,806,261	$2,614,416	$2,925,050	$3,912,500	$4,713,032
Imports (unmanufactured) short tons	449,632	647,881	509,366	705,458	761,873	709,419
Value	$21,301,310	$37,974,092	$33,939,582	$47,284,205	$58,521,046	$61,595,900
Exports (unmanufactured)[1] short tons	4,617	9,227	20,045	20,890	16,526	10,724
Value	$552,936	$1,804,611	$4,152,344	$4,084,384	$3,662,270	$2,670,970
Apparent consumption short tons	457,619	675,746	532,708	727,002	796,992	752,559
Exports of asbestos products [1 2]	$7,413,083	$9,326,705	$9,667,847	$8,147,141	$14,321,278	$13,028,857

[1] 1947–52 figures include material that has been imported and subsequently exported without change.
[2] 1943–45 figures include value of "Magnesia and manufactures."

DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

As indicated in table 1, domestic sales were 4 percent higher in 1952 than in 1951. Chrysotile was produced in Vermont and Arizona and

[1] Commodity specialist.
[2] Statistical assistant.

Minerals Yearbook: Asbestos Chapters, 1952
ACL Doc 10991 · Page 1 of 11
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amphibole in Georgia. So few companies have produced amphibole during recent years that separate figures cannot be published.

Production in Arizona was a little higher in 1952 than in the previous year. The following firms and individuals were active: American Asbestos Cement Corp., 115 West Oak St., Globe; Apache Asbestos Mines, Inc., Globe; Bear Canyon Mining Co., P. O. Box 1730, Globe; Ned H. Brown, P. O. Box 1797, Clifton; Arthur Enders, P. O. Box 362, Globe; Jaquays Mining Corp., 1219 South 19th Ave., Phoenix (on June 1, 1952, took over the Regal mine, formerly operated by Arizona Chrysotile Asbestos Co.), also operated the Asbestos King mine; George W. Kohl, P. O. Box 1593, Globe; Kyle Asbestos Mines of Arizona, P. O. Box 302, Globe; Metate Asbestos Corp., P. O. Box 1506, Globe; Phillips Asbestos Mines, Drawer 71, Globe.

In 1952 a majority of the Arizona producers established The Arizona Asbestos Producers' Association, with headquarters in Globe, for the purpose of reviewing marketing problems, securing better transportation facilities in the district, and taking other steps to improve conditions in the industry.

Measures were under way late in 1952 to establish at Globe, Ariz., an asbestos mill and purchasing facilities under Defense Materials Procurement Agency sponsorship, but little progress had been made by the end of the year except the purchase and warehousing of some unmilled asbestos. The purpose of this project is to make available a mill for the production of low-iron asbestos now in strong demand for stockpiling and current consumption.

According to press reports, a carlot of an unusual, platy form of asbestos known as antigorite has been shipped from a deposit near Jamestown, Tuolumne County, Calif., to the Powhatan Mining Co. at Baltimore, Md., for experimental purposes. No commercial production of either amphibole or chrysotile was reported in 1952, but some exploratory work was conducted under Defense Minerals Exploration Administration loans.

The Powhatan Mining Co., Woodlawn, Baltimore, Md., reported a small production of amphibole asbestos in Georgia from deposits at Gay, Meriwether County, and Dillard, Rabun County.

Some interest has appeared in an asbestos deposit in Warren County, N. Y., consisting of crossfiber veins of chrysotile in limestone. Only small outcrops of fiber-bearing rock appear.

Mining & Milling Corp. of America, 441 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y., has equipped a mill at Spruce Pine, N. C., for processing anthophyllite obtained chiefly at the Bluerock deposit, which was worked some years ago by Industrial Minerals Corp. The mill, which was nearing completion in 1952, is designed to prepare group 7 fibers to be used in conjunction with Canadian 7R chrysotile in asphalt- and vinyl-tile manufacture. Other actual or proposed uses include welding-rod coatings, molded compounds, paints, insulating cements, filtration materials, and underbody coatings.[3]

The Vermont Asbestos Mines Division of the Ruberoid Co., 500 Fifth Ave., New York 18, N. Y., produced chrysotile on an enlarged scale during 1952 near Hyde Park, Vt. Exploratory work, including diamond drilling, was continued partly under DMEA loans.

[3] Rukeyser, Walter A., Mining & Milling Corp. of America to Begin Production in November 1952: Asbestos, vol. 34, No. 5, November 1952, pp. 26–29.

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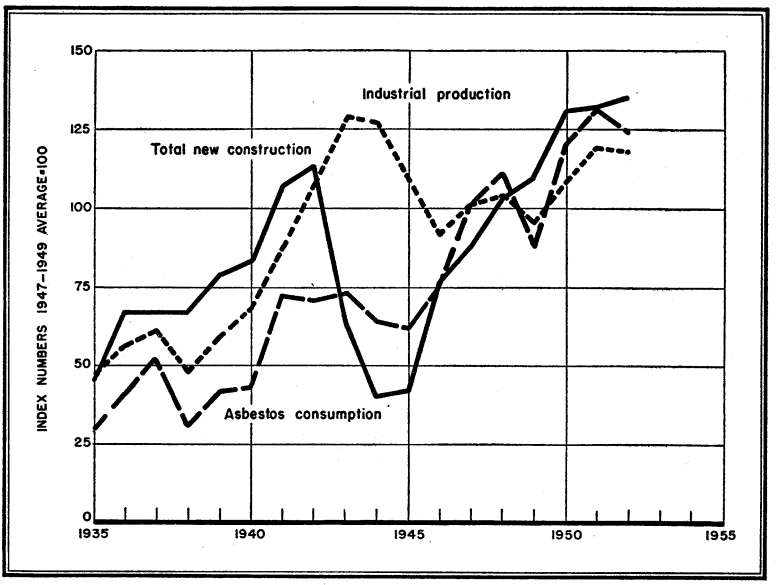


FIGURE 1.—Consumption of asbestos compared with total new construction and industrial production, 1935–52. Statistics on value of construction from Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and on industrial production from Federal Reserve Board.

CONSUMPTION AND USES

As indicated in table 2, consumption of raw asbestos in the United States was about 6 percent lower in 1952 than in 1951. However, the decline was in the shorter grades, whereas consumption of the longer fibers increased. This condition is reflected in the alltime high value of consumption in 1952 of more than 64 million dollars. As asbestos has a multitude of industrial uses, its consumption moves in consonance with the trend of industrial production. It is also used extensively as a constituent of asbestos-cement building materials and in various heat-insulating products; therefore its consumption is influenced by the volume of building construction. These trends are shown graphically in figure 1.

TABLE 2.—Apparent consumption of raw asbestos in the United States, 1943–47 (average) and 1948–52

Year	Short tons	Value	Year	Short tons	Value
1943–47 (average)	457, 619	$21, 265, 277	1950	727, 002	$46, 124, 871
1948	675, 746	37, 975, 742	1951	796, 992	58, 771, 276
1949	532, 708	32, 401, 654	1952	752, 559	63, 637, 962

PRICES

Prices of asbestos continued the periodic advances that have characterized recent years. The substantial increases in Canadian

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asbestos prices, as of January 15, 1951, continued in effect through January 1952; but, as quoted in short tons, f. o. b. mines, in the magazine Asbestos, they were advanced in February 1952, as follows: Group 1 (Crude No. 1) remained at $1,100–$1,500. Group 2 (Crude No. 2, Crude Run-of-Mine, and Sundry) was increased from a range of $485–$900 to $500–$1,000; group 3 (Spinning Fiber) from $275–$450 to $300–$525; group 4 (Shingle Fiber) from $135–$151 to $150–$200; group 5 (Paper Fiber) from $95–$119 to $100–$140; group 6 (Waste, Stucco, or Plaster) from $70 to $77; and group 7 (Refuse or Shorts) from $32–$63 to $35–$70.

Vermont prices, quoted in short tons f. o. b. Hyde Park or Morrisville, Vt., which were advanced in October 1951, continued at that level until February 1952, when they were increased as follows: Group 3 (Spinning and Filtering) from $279.50–$302 to $321–$348; group 4 (Shingle Fiber) from $135–$162 to $156–$173; group 5 (Paper Fiber) from $81.50–$115 to $110–$132; group 6 (Waste, Stucco, or Plaster) from $71.40 to $78; and group 7 (Refuse or Shorts) from

TABLE 3.—Asbestos (unmanufactured) imported for consumption in the United States, 1948–52, 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
1948	38,088	$5,420,600	176,908	$18,028,161	432,885	$14,525,331	647,881	$37,974,092
1949	39,272	6,741,789	127,504	14,476,260	342,590	12,721,533	509,366	33,939,582
1950	27,803	5,857,687	177,951	21,381,704	499,704	20,044,814	705,458	47,284,205
1951								
Australia	311	76,225					311	76,225
Bolivia [1]	324	121,085					324	121,085
British East Africa	160	35,409					160	35,409
Canada	736	362,075	224,770	28,780,021	501,264	23,052,818	726,770	52,194,914
France [2]			11	1,632			11	1,632
Italy	1	3,074	22	20,554			23	23,628
Southern British Africa	712	162,891					712	162,891
Southern Rhodesia	7,700	2,237,654	25	6,344			7,725	2,243,998
Union of South Africa [3]	23,448	3,448,373	109	18,299	26	5,428	23,583	3,472,100
U. S. S. R.	1,897	171,354	330	16,500	10	175	2,237	188,029
Yugoslavia			17	1,135			17	1,135
Total	35,289	6,618,140	225,284	28,844,485	501,300	23,058,421	761,873	58,521,046
1952								
Australia	274	83,353					274	83,353
Bolivia	413	157,289					413	157,289
Canada	555	393,398	210,293	30,852,323	458,012	22,243,941	668,860	53,489,662
Italy			11	12,721			11	12,721
Portugal	16	1,323			32	3,584	48	4,907
Southern British Africa	607	164,368					607	164,368
Southern Rhodesia	10,121	3,385,933	422	178,763			10,543	3,564,696
Union of South Africa	26,640	3,861,619	152	33,611	100	12,699	26,892	3,907,929
U. S. S. R.			1,761	206,926			1,761	206,926
United Kingdom					5	1,815	5	1,815
Venezuela			5	2,234			5	2,234
Total	38,626	8,047,283	212,644	31,286,578	458,149	22,262,039	709,419	61,595,900

[1] Includes 28 tons ($12,545) of blue (crocidolite) crudes credited by U. S. Department of Commerce to Chile.

[2] Classified by U. S. Department of Commerce as amosite crude, re-classified by Bureau of Mines as mill fibers.

[3] Includes 100 tons ($9,400) amosite crude credited by U. S. Department of Commerce to French West Africa; 512 tons ($52,065) credited to Mozambique; 140 tons ($34,115) credited to Southern Rhodesia; also 6 tons ($2,002) blue (crocidolite) crudes credited to United Kingdom.

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ACL Doc 10991 · Page 4 of 11
asbestosclaims.law/library/10991/4

$34–$63 to $37–$68.50. The above prices of both Canadian and Vermont fibers remained in effect for the balance of the year.

There are no market quotations for African asbestos. It is sold by negotiation with individual purchasers.

FOREIGN TRADE [4]

Imports.—The United States consumed about one-half of the asbestos produced in the world in 1952 but produced only 7 percent of its requirements. Accordingly, foreign supplies are essential to the domestic asbestos-products industries. In 1952 imports were 7 percent lower than in 1951. About 94 percent of total imports originated in Canada, 4 percent in the Union of South Africa, and 1 percent in Southern Rhodesia. On a value basis, however, African imports approached 12 percent of the total.

As there is a growing interest in the types and grades of asbestos imported from the principal sources, tables 4 and 5 have been introduced into this chapter showing importations by grades from Canada and Southern Rhodesia.

Exports.—Exports of unmanufactured asbestos were smaller in 1952 than in any year since 1948. Export controls which were in effect since late in 1951 evidently effected a decline in the volume of asbestos shipped out of the United States.

TABLE 4.—Asbestos (chrysotile) imported for consumption in the United States from Canada, by grades, 1951–52, in short tons

[U. S. Department of Commerce]

Grades	1951	1952
Crude No. 1	126	144
Crude No. 2	226	332
Other crudes	384	79
Spinning and Textile Fiber	22,463	24,072
Shingle Fiber	104,419	98,577
Paper Fiber	97,888	87,644
Short Fiber	501,264	458,012
Total	726,770	668,860

TABLE 5.—Asbestos (chrysotile) imported for consumption in the United States from Southern Rhodesia, by grades, 1951–52, in short tons

[U. S. Department of Commerce]

Grades	1951	1952
Crude No. 1	678	462
Crude No. 2	1,239	1,363
Other crudes	5,783	8,296
Spinning and Textile Fiber	25	177
Shingle Fiber	----------	245
Total	7,725	10,543

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

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TABLE 6.—Asbestos and asbestos products exported from the United States, 1948–52

[U. S. Department of Commerce]

Year	Unmanufactured asbestos				Asbestos products	
	Domestic [1]		Foreign [2]		Domestic [1]	Foreign [2]
	Short tons	Value	Short tons	Value	Value	Value
1948	6,530	$1,173,259	2,697	$631,352	$9,321,351	$5,354
1949	17,621	3,618,703	2,424	533,641	9,666,560	1,287
1950	18,980	3,646,828	1,910	437,556	8,097,192	49,949
1951	14,298	3,216,810	2,228	445,460	14,320,389	889
1952	10,265	2,550,065	459	120,905	13,027,739	1,118

[1] Material of domestic origin, or foreign material that has been milled, blended or otherwise processed in the United States.
[2] Material that has been imported and subsequently exported without change.

TABLE 7.—Asbestos and asbestos products exported from the United States 1951–52, by kinds

[U. S. Department of Commerce]

Product	1951		1952	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Unmanufactured asbestos:				
Crude and spinning fibers, short tons	1,306	$479,228	1,419	$551,686
Nonspinning fibers, do	11,449	2,567,289	7,610	1,845,154
Waste and refuse, do	1,543	170,293	1,236	153,225
Total unmanufactured, do	14,298	3,216,810	10,265	2,550,065
Asbestos products:				
Brake blocks, do	363	680,989	195	454,537
Brake lining:				
Molded and semimolded, do	3,472	6,017,473	2,365	4,657,696
Not molded, linear feet	1,034,930	661,474	530,906	424,838
Clutch facing, number	1,452,270	935,913	1,550,644	996,080
Construction materials, short tons	14,757	2,526,784	16,692	2,822,802
Pipe covering and cement, do	2,026	453,367	2,324	655,254
Textiles, yarn, and packing, do	1,176	2,391,982	1,254	2,428,123
Manufactures, n. e. s	(1)	652,407	(1)	588,409
Total		14,320,389		13,027,739

[1] Quantity not recorded.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Research was continued on methods of removing iron from the ferrous types of chrysotile to make them suitable for electric insulation uses. Experiments conducted by the Naval Research Laboratory included treatment of bulk samples of Canadian chrysotile with a commercial-size Vortrap at the National Bureau of Standards, but the results were unsatisfactory. Only one-third of the iron content had been removed after three passages through the machine. Considerable research remains to be done on fiberization before the effectiveness of the Vortrap as a means of removing iron from asbestos can be determined.

Much progress has been made in the manufacture of glass and related fibers, some of which may be used as substitutes for asbestos in certain applications. The manufacture of an aluminum silicate fiber

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known as "Fiberfrax" has been announced by the Carborundum Co It is blown by steam or compressed air after fusion with an electric arc. The fibers will withstand temperatures as high as 2,300° F.[5]

Keasbey & Mattison Co., which has operated an asbestos-products plant at Ambler, Pa., for many years, has expanded its facilities by establishing an asbestos-cement-pipe plant at Santa Clara, Calif., and an asbestos-textile plant at Meredith, N. H.

DMEA loan applications were approved for exploratory work on asbestos deposits in Gila County, Ariz.; Siskiyou, Nevada, Trinity, and Inyo Counties, Calif.; Madison County, Mont.; Grant County, Oreg.; Marinette County, Wis.; and Natrona County, Wyo. No noteworthy discoveries were recorded in 1952.

Several publications on various phases of the asbestos industry appeared during the year. Becker & Haag issued a second edition of Asbest.[6] The first section of the book describes the physical and chemical properties of asbestos. Research in this field was assisted greatly by the electron microscope and electronic apparatus. Following sections deal with the asbestos deposits of the world, the processing of asbestos, and the manufacture of asbestos products.

The Bureau of Mines, in cooperation with the National Security Resources Board, prepared a report[7] covering primarily problems relating to acquisition of adequate supplies of the essential grades of asbestos. It describes the varieties and composition of asbestos, the principal world deposits, mining and milling methods, grading and classification, world production and reserves, international trade, uses, substitutes, and various other aspects of the industry.

The Department of Geography of the University of Maryland has prepared, in cooperation with the Bureau of Mines, a comprehensive atlas of the mineral resources of the world; one chapter is devoted to asbestos.[8]

Asbestos floats have been discussed in some detail by Badollet.[9] Floats are airborne particles collected at various places in asbestos-processing mills. Their properties, classification, and uses are described. They are useful constituents of automobile-body coatings, adhesives, caulking compounds, joint fillers, paints, plastics, and many other products.

The United States Tariff Commission has published a short report on asbestos.[10]

Processes and equipment used in asbestos milling, particularly those employed in Africa, are described in detail in a recent series of articles.[11]

To conserve supplies of the spinning grades of chrysotile asbestos adequate for the manufacture of products essential to the defense program, the National Production Authority issued Order M–96, effective February 1, 1952. On and after that date, the use of some grades of spinning fiber was prohibited for any other than certain

[5] Chemical Engineering, Ceramic Fiber Resists 2,300° F.: Vol. 59, No. 9, September 1952, p. 198.
[6] Frank, Karl, Asbest (in German): Becker & Haag, Hamburg, Germany, 1952, 234 pp.
[7] Bowles, Oliver, Materials Survey—Asbestos: Bureau of Mines, prepared for National Security Resources Board, 1952, 146 pp.
[8] Van Royen, William, and Bowles, Oliver, Asbestos: chapter in Atlas of the World's Resources, The Mineral Resources of the World, Prentice-Hall, New York, 1952, pp. 166–169.
[9] Badollet, M. S., Asbestos Floats: Canadian Min. and Met. Bull., vol. 55, May 1952, pp. 185–189.
[10] U. S. Tariff Commission, Asbestos: Industrial Mineral Series Rept. M–3, 1951, 46 pp.
[11] Sinclair, W. E., Milling Asbestos Ore: Asbestos, vol. 33, No. 9, March, 1952, pp. 8–18; No. 10, April, 1952, pp. 4–12; No. 11, May, 1952, pp. 4–10; No. 12, June 1952, pp. 2–10.

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specified end uses. Limitations were placed on the use of the material for production of certain other end-use products.

A new although small use for blue asbestos is its employment in cigarette filters.

WORLD REVIEW

Official statistics of world production for 1952 are far from complete, but estimates for unreported countries are included in the total shown in table 8. Revisions for previous years have been made in the light of new information that has become available. World output was virtually the same in 1952 as in 1951.

TABLE 8.—World production of asbestos by countries,[1] 1948–52, in metric tons[2]

[Compiled by Helen L. Hunt]

Country[1]	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
North America:					
Canada (sales)[3]	650,239	521,543	794,095	882,866	843,078
United States (sold or used by producers)	33,649	39,360	38,495	46,851	48,864
South America:					
Bolivia (exports)	147	182	166	316	465
Brazil	1,499	1,415	844	1,321	(4)
Chile	150	291	172	(4)	(4)
Venezuela	192	192	190	260	394
Europe:					
Finland [5]	10,818	10,486	10,949	11,850	5,801
France	1,309	1,090	6,080	6,940	6,300
Greece	9	9	30	34	25
Italy	13,044	15,877	21,433	22,612	23,938
Portugal	414	101	257	312	(4)
Spain	35	40	41	41	(4)
Yugoslavia	752	1,138	958	1,523	2,506
Asia:					
Cyprus	8,106	12,556	14,989	17,180	[6] 18,479
India	83	148	211	440	(4)
Japan	4,809	5,456	5,664	6,139	3,564
Taiwan (Formosa)	652	410	216	35	24
Turkey	203	250	245	80	----
Africa:					
Egypt	1,625	117	260	1,247	(4)
French Morocco	399	402	511	604	576
Kenya	510	716	229	379	354
Madagascar	(7)	2	1	17	3
Southern Rhodesia	62,502	72,246	64,888	70,454	76,960
Swaziland	29,421	30,814	29,635	31,719	31,542
Union of South Africa	41,490	64,334	79,300	97,402	121,416
Oceania:					
Australia	1,348	1,671	1,643	2,599	4,124
New Zealand	----	----	42	826	(4)
Total (estimate)	1,025,000	975,000	1,300,000	1,425,000	1,425,000

[1] In addition to countries listed, asbestos is produced in Argentina, China, Czechoslovakia, Korea, and U. S. S. R. Estimates by authors of the chapter are included in the total.
[2] This table incorporates a number of revisions of data published in previous asbestos chapters.
[3] Exclusive of sand, gravel, and stone (waste rock only), production of which is reported as follows: 1948, 40,066 tons; 1949, 32,015 tons; 1950, 43,551 tons; 1951, 30,628 tons; 1952, 35,982 tons.
[4] Data not available; estimate by authors of chapter included in total.
[5] Includes asbestos flour.
[6] Exports.
[7] Less than 0.5 ton.

CANADA

Shipments of Canadian asbestos declined 5 percent from the 1951 level, but the value of sales increased 9 percent. As indicated in table 9, the recession in sales was confined primarily to the shorter, low-priced grades. Asbestos-producing companies in Canada in 1952 were, in order of size of output: Canadian Johns-Manville Corp., Ltd.; Asbestos Corp., Ltd.; Johnson's Co.; Quebec Asbestos Corp.; Bell

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Asbestos Mines; Nicolet Asbestos Mines, Ltd.; and Flintkote Mines, Ltd.

The American Smelting & Refining Co. conducted, under option, large-scale milling tests of asbestos-bearing rock from the property of United Asbestos Corp. Ltd., under Black Lake, Quebec. Preliminary mining and milling are being conducted by Lake Asbestos of Quebec, Ltd., a subsidiary of American Smelting & Refining Co. The results of the tests have not yet been announced. The Quebec Legislature has amended the Quebec Mining Act to permit drainage of the lake.

An extensive modernization program of Canadian Johns-Manville Corp., Ltd., at the Jeffrey mine and mill, Asbestos, Quebec, is well advanced. Over 16,000 tons a day of fiber-bearing rock is now being milled.

The new mill of Dominion Asbestos Co., with a capacity of 2,200 tons of rock a day, was nearing completion at the end of 1952. The property is near St. Adrien about 15 miles from Asbestos, Quebec.

A new mill, the Normandie, of the Asbestos Corp., Ltd., with a capacity of 5,000 tons of rock a day was under construction in 1952.

Lafayette Asbestos Co., Ltd., has purchased the mineral rights, machinery, and equipment of the St. Lawrence Asbestos Co., Ltd. The property is situated in Cranbourne Township, Dorchester County, Quebec. Plans are being made for constructing a mill with a capacity of 2,000 tons of rock a day.

The complex block-caving system of mining in the Quebec area has been described in some detail by Lindell.[12] He also described the haulage systems employed at Canadian mines.[13]

The McDame Creek asbestos deposit in northern British Columbia is being developed by Cassiar Asbestos Corp., a subsidiary of Conwest Exploration Co. A mill having a capacity of 250 tons of rock a day was completed in 1952. It was designed primarily to process fiber from surface exposures. It was expected that the mill would be in operation by midsummer 1953. A larger mill to handle rock from underground workings is contemplated. Samples of the asbestos tested in the

TABLE 9.—Sales of asbestos in Canada, 1951–52, by grade

[Dominion Bureau of Statistics]

	1951			1952		
	Short tons	Value		Short tons	Value	
		Total	Average per ton		Total	Average per ton
Grade:						
Crudes	748	C $568,725	C $760.33	741	C $726,827	C $980.87
Fibers	333,001	49,399,632	148.35	351,644	58,822,472	167.28
Shorts	639,449	31,615,988	49.44	576,954	29,705,614	51.49
Total	973,198	81,584,345	83.83	929,339	89,254,913	96.04
Rock mined	12,623,529			12,992,252		
Rock milled	10,219,658			10,918,989		

[12] Lindell, Karl V., World's Largest Asbestos Producer Uses Block Caving and Concreted Slusher Drifts: Min. Eng., vol. 4, No. 3, March 1952, pp. 265–272.

[13] Lindell, Karl V., Rail and Truck Haulage at Canadian Asbestos Open Pit: Min. Eng., vol. 4, No. 4, April 1952, pp. 364–368.

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United States were found to be of good quality for textile use. It is reported that the iron content of the processed fiber will be low enough to pass specifications for nonferrous fiber. Exploratory work indicates the presence of a large body of asbestos-bearing rock having a relatively high fiber content. The deposit is the most promising occurrence of spinning fiber noted during recent years.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Southern Rhodesia.—As indicated in table 10, the output of asbestos in Southern Rhodesia in 1952 increased 9 percent in quantity and 22 percent in value. Principal production was from the Shabani mines and in the Mashaba and Filabusi districts, controlled by Turner & Newall, Ltd., of Manchester, England. Rhodesia Monteleo Asbestos, Ltd., has completed its new mill at its property in the Vukwe Hills, 15 miles southeast of Shabani. Fiber shipments on a substantial scale are expected in 1953.

The Johns-Manville Corp., in association with several other companies, is developing two asbestos deposits at Mashaba in the Victoria district. One mill will handle the product of both deposits.

TABLE 10.—Asbestos produced in Southern Rhodesia, 1948–52

Year	Short tons	Value	Year	Short tons	Value
1948	68,897	£2,604,623	1951	77,663	£5,452,108
1949	79,638	3,986,703	1952	84,834	6,651,975
1950	71,527	4,615,490			

Union of South Africa.—Production in the Union continued the remarkable expansion that has characterized recent years. Total production was 25 percent higher than in 1951. Gains were registered in every category. Amosite production increased 17 percent, chrysotile 28 percent, Transvaal blue 30 percent, and Cape blue 35 percent. For the first time in the history of the industry, exports passed the 100,000-ton mark. The new Riley Bridge over the Orange River at Koegas, completed in 1952, has greatly facilitated transportation and tends to stimulate increasing production of blue asbestos.

TABLE 11.—Asbestos produced in and exported from the Union of South Africa, 1948–52

Year	Production (short tons)			Exports	
	Transvaal	Cape Province	Total	Short tons	Value
1948	37,434	8,301	45,735	38,550	£1,138,792
1949	58,918	11,999	70,917	63,428	2,600,323
1950	72,203	15,211	87,414	70,609	3,475,200
1951	89,290	18,078	107,368	89,735	5,056,143
1952	109,398	24,441	133,839	106,576	6,899,086

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TABLE 12.—Asbestos produced in the Union of South Africa, 1948–52, by varieties and sources, in short tons

Variety and source	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Amosite (Transvaal)	30,372	41,974	42,393	54,053	63,280
Chrysotile (Transvaal)	4,441	7,609	14,334	19,509	24,970
Blue (Transvaal)	2,608	9,181	15,387	15,581	20,294
Blue (Cape)	8,301	11,999	15,211	18,078	24,441
Anthophyllite (Transvaal)	13	154	89	147	854
Total	45,735	70,917	87,414	107,368	133,839

OTHER COUNTRIES

Australia.—The blue asbestos deposits of western Australia are discussed in a recent publication.[14]

Colombia.—The Johns-Manville Corp. is developing a chrysotile asbestos deposit at Antioquia in cooperation with Sociedad Colombiana de Asbestos, Ltda., and the Institute de Fomento Industrial, a Colombian Government organization devoted to promoting the industrial development of the country.

Kenya.—A deposit of anthophyllite was discovered in 1949 in the Teita Hills about 120 miles from the Port of Mombasa. A mill has been built, and some progress has been made in developing uses in such products as chemical filters, compound packings, and thermal and acoustical insulation.[15]

Spain.—An output of 30 tons a month of asbestos from a deposit at Ronda in southern Spain was reported in the press in 1952.

Yugoslavia.—Several widely scattered chrysotile asbestos deposits occur in Yugoslavia. At least four of the properties have been developed, and mills are in operation or are under construction. Most of the fiber is of the shorter grades, but one deposit furnishes hand-cobbed Crudes Nos. 1 and 2. The properties have been described in some detail by Millar.[16]

[14] The Mining Journal (London), The Asbestos Deposits of Western Australia: Vol. 238, No. 6095, June 15, 1952, p. 623.
[15] Asbestos, The Makinyambu Asbestos Deposits, Kenya, British East Africa: Vol. 34, No. 1, July 1952, pp. 2–8.
[16] Millar, W. B., Asbestos in Yugoslavia: Asbestos, vol. 34, No. 2, August, pp. 2–10; No. 3, September, pp. 2–10; No. 4, October, pp. 2–6, 1952.

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