

No. 2 Ground contains from 96 to 98 per cent of calcium fluoride and as much as 2 per cent of silica.

The ground fluorite is usually of about 85 mesh.

#### USES.

The main use of fluorite is as a flux in the metallurgical industries. In the manufacture of basic open-hearth steel, large quantities are used to render the high calcium slag employed more fluid. No. 3 grade, containing 85 per cent, or more, calcium fluoride and about 3 per cent, or less, silica, is specified. In some cases fluorite is used as a flux in blast furnace and foundry practice. For these purposes the cheapest grades are used.

Fluorite enters into the composition of the mixture used in enameling iron and steel ware. It is used also in the making of opal glass. "No. 1 ground," containing less than a half per cent of oxide of iron is specified. Small quantities are used in etching glass.

In the chemical industry, fluorite is employed as a source of fluorine in the manufacture of hydrofluoric acid and various fluorides. For chemical purposes the higher grades are used exclusively.

Fluorspar is employed in the electrolytic refining of lead to prepare the lead fluosilicate used as electrolyte, and also in the electro-reduction of aluminium.

#### PRICES.

The prices of fluorite for metallurgical purposes, laid down at the points of consumption, were reported as varying from \$5 to \$9.50, averaging \$7.85.

For glass and enamelware making the cost reaches as high as \$35 per ton.

No figures of imports are available.