

SHALE AND SLATE.

Shale is a fine textured argillaceous rock of sedimentary origin. It splits into thin fragments parallel to its bedding.

Slate is also an argillaceous rock of fine texture. It has been subjected to lateral pressure which has developed cleavage planes at right angles to the direction along which the pressure acted, permitting it to be broken readily into thin slabs.

USES.

Soft shales are frequently ground and used for brick-making. Large quantities are used in a number of localities in Canada for this purpose. No record of quantities is available.

Slate is used as a roofing material. It is split into thin sheets and trimmed to convenient dimensions. There is only a small market in Canada for slate shingles, as they do not withstand the effect of our severe winters satisfactorily. It is also used to make electric switchboards, school slates, and blackboards.

Crushed slate or shale is used for making "ready roofing." For this purpose it is crushed to about one-eighth or one-quarter inch size.

When ground very finely these rocks are used as filler for wood. Paint manufacturers prepare wood-filler by mixing the ground material with oil.

PRICES.

The price of finely ground shale or slate ranges from \$9 to \$23 per ton.

Amount of ground slate and keystone used in the manufacturing industries, as reported by the consumers:—

Location	No. of firms reporting consumption	Domestic	Imported
		Tons	Tons
Maritime Provinces.....	—	—	—
Quebec.....	2	—	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁰
Ontario.....	8	—	221
Prairie Provinces.....	—	—	—
British Columbia.....	—	—	—
Canada (Total).....	10	—	239 $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁰