

Talc which is later to be ground is won either by open-cut or underground methods. Underground methods are preferable for the reason that the product may be more easily kept clean. In open-cut work during rainy weather the surface drainage which finds its way into the workings carries much clay and dirt with it, staining the talc. There is less danger of this in underground mining.

From the pit the talc is sent to the mill to be prepared for the market. The stained and coloured material is sorted from that which would produce a white product and is discarded or set aside as low grade stock.

The lump talc is first crushed, by means of jaw, or gyratory crushers or rolls, to about one-quarter inch size. It is then very finely pulverized in a buhr mill, ball or tube mill, cyclone mill, or some such pulverizer. The pulverizing is carried on until a large percentage is reduced to 200 mesh size. The product is graded by size, by means of bolting, or air-floating, or a combination of the two methods.

PRICES.

The crude unground talc is worth about \$2 per ton at the mine. The finely pulverized talc varies in price, according to grade and quantity purchased, and also according to the point of delivery, from \$7 to \$30 for domestic talc, and as high as \$80 per ton for imported talc, purchased in quarter ton lots.

The price of talc used in paper making averages about \$8.75 per ton. That used for foundry purposes, usually purchased in quarter ton lots, averages in price \$22 per ton. The general average price for domestic talc is somewhat below \$20.

Amount of talc used in the manufacturing industries, as reported by the consumers:—

| Location | No. of firms reporting consumption | Domestic | Imported |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | | Tons | Tons |
| Maritime Provinces..... | 13 | $1\frac{0}{30}$ | $35\frac{5}{30}$ |
| Quebec..... | 28 | $2810\frac{5}{30}$ | $233\frac{5}{30}$ |
| Ontario..... | 118 | $1281\frac{2}{30}$ | $486\frac{5}{30}$ |
| Prairie Provinces..... | 10 | 82 | 3 |
| British Columbia..... | 2 | 50 | $1\frac{0}{20}$ |
| Canada (Total)..... | 171 | $4224\frac{7}{30}$ | $759\frac{5}{30}$ |