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STONE PRODUCTION

IN UNITED STATES

VALUE IS MANY MILLIONS

Hundred Millions of Tons Are Produced in Year; Types and Uses Described In Report

valued at \$161,600,000, was produced in the United States in 1923, according to an estimate given out by the Department of the Interior, made from figures compiled by the Geological Survey. These figures show an increase of about 34 per cent in quantity over the output made in 1922 and an increase of nearly 17 per cent over the largest recorded output-that made in 1916. The estimated total value is 32 per cent greater than for 1922 and is the largest on record, although the average unit value was less than that in 1920.

There was a fairly active demand during the year for all kinds of stone The only product that apparently showed a decrease in output was stone sold for flagging. The final figures for this product may, however, show a tive walks and pavements around houses and gardens has recently been much favored by architects.

The conditions at the quarries were pay for it. Do you need a hood better in 1923 than in 1922. There over your kitchen range, an ash were practically no strikes in 1923, or garbage can, a leader or run- and more cars were available for ner, a tin roof, a metal ceiling, transportation, especially of crushed stone, than for several years. Labor was scarce and wages were high, yet the cost of quarrying apparently remained about the same. The average prices were slightly lower than h

The demand for building stone was fairly good, the increase in the quantity sold being about 22 per cent in 1923 as compared with about 48 per cent in 1922. The output of granite, which was small in 1922 on account of strikes in the quarries and in the cutting shops, showed an increase of about '30 per cent in 1923. Marble sold for use as building stone apparently increased 12 per cent, sandstone 18 per cent, an increase of 21 per

The output of monumental stone, which showed only a small increase in 1922 (about 7 per cent) increased about 64 per cent in 1923. The outout of marble for this use increased about 27 per cent and that of granite increased about 80 per cent over that in 1822, when it was very small, especially in New England. The great est increase, about 150 per cent, was made in Vermont, but the increase in the rest of the country was more than

For Paving Blocks The quantity of stone sold for use as paving blocks increased about 48 per cent in 1923. Over 50 per cent more granite paving blocks were sold and about 13 per cent more sandstone

sale of curbstone increased about 44 per cent, but that of flagstone decreased slightly. The sale of stone for riprap and rubble apparently increased in 1923. The use of rubble and ash ar stone for churches and for facing residences, walls, etc., was

The sale of crushed stone, which represents more than half the stone quarried is estimated at 66,000,000 short tons in 1923, an increase of about 33 per cent over 1922. The quantity of crushed stone sold for use as railread ballast increased about 76 per cent, and that of stone sold for use as road metal and in concrete for construction and road work increased about 28 per cent.

Other Types The use of fluxing stone, which, on account of the revival of the metal industry increased about 74 per cent in 1922, showed a further increase of about 46 per cent in 1923. The quantity sold for this use in 1923 was about 27,730,000 short tons.

The quantity of dolomite, quartzite, and mich schist sold as refractory material increased more than 25 per cent, and that of other stone, chiefly limestone, sold for use in the chemical industries also increased.

The quantity of pulverized limestone sold for use in liming farm land was about 1,500,000 short tons, an increase of 25 per cent over the quantity

PLAN TO MAKE GAS FROM WHEAT STRAW

The United States Bureau of Chemistry announces the discovery of method whereby a ton of sun-dried wheat straw is said to yield 10,000 2 cubic feet of illuminating gas, 10 gallons of tar and 625 pounds of carbon

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gallon from the service station. Cars have been operated by gas experimentally, the gas being carried in a rubber storage bag. A car carrying 300 cubic feet of gas can run about fifteen miles on it, it is said.

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