crushed slate, roofing slate, and slate for such structural and sanitary uses as will require no finishing, although finished structural slate and even blackboards were once prepared with the aid of diamond saws at the Chapman quarry in the "hard" belt. The great proportion of the slate production of the State is in the form of roofing slate.

Pennsylvania leads all other States in slate production. In 1937 the value of slate produced amounted to $2,785,744 or 49 percent of the value of all slate produced in the United States. Northampton County made 90 percent of the output.

In 1937 Northampton County quarries produced about 55 percent of the roofing slate sold in the United States, and 57 percent of the mill stock.

Pennsylvania is the only State commonly producing blackboard slate, although very small amounts have come from other localities in certain years. The yield is entirely from the Lehigh-Northampton district. All of the production comes from the neighborhood of Bangor, of Penn Argyl and Wind Gap, or of Slate-ington, Berlinsville, and Slate Dale.

History.—Fritts (1877) says that a company for quarrying slate in Northampton County was incorporated in 1805. Pinch in 1824 reported that slate quarries had been opened "near the banks of the Delaware" but the product was regarded as inferior.

"... The first operation recorded was in the hard belt by a company from Baltimore which in 1828 began quarrying west of Laurys Station in Whitehall township, probably at the Rockdale quarry, Lehigh County.

"In 1831 slate was discovered on Benninger's farm, east of Slate-ington, and probably near the site of the present Genuine Washington quarries, but extensive quarrying on a commercial scale is not known to have been done here before 1844. In that year, according to tradition, the land mentioned was leased by William Roberts and Nelson Labar, who became interested in quarrying from seeing slate outcrops while on a walking trip from Easton to Mauch Chunk.

"About 1850 slate was discovered at Bangor by Robert M. Jones, the founder of Bangor, whose statue is seen at the Bangor High School, on the hill east of that city, where the masts of the Old Bangor quarry now stand. At this time, too, the Chapman quarries in the hard belt were developed, the charter of the present company being dated 1864.

"Thus by 1855 the slate quarry industry, stimulated by Welshmen who were instrumental in persuading experienced slaters from Wales to emigrate to this country, was already thriving and growing by leaps and bounds. Indeed in 1850 or thereabouts, Rogers, then State