

the conversion of phosphate into superphosphate, in which case a large home market might be created for this valuable fertilizer, much to the benefit of the country, while the increase in profit to the manufacturer would be considerable. As it is, at present, all the raw material is shipped abroad, principally to England and Germany, and it is believed that a considerable quantity is shipped back to the United States, both in a crude and manufactured condition. Of the total output of 21,000 tons in 1887, only 200 tons were used in Canada and 300 tons sent to the United States.

Canadian  
fertilizer  
factories.

543. The only attempts so far made to utilize Canadian phosphate in this country have been at the fertilizer factories at Brockville and Smith's Falls, and the demand for these products is growing in a very encouraging manner. A mill has been erected at Buckingham for crushing and pulverizing the raw material which reduces it to a fineness equal to flour.

Experi-  
ments  
with phos-  
phate and  
super-  
phos-  
phate.

544. There is considerable difference of opinion respecting the beneficial results to the soil by the application of the raw pulverized material. Experience seems to show that for immediate returns, soluble phosphates, *i.e.*, the raw material treated with sulphuric acid, must be used, and where insoluble phosphate, or the raw pulverized material is used, it is absolutely necessary that it be reduced to an impalpable powder. Experiments have been made at different times, more or less favourable to the raw material, and a series of experiments will be made during the coming season at the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa. Great interest is being excited in this question of the use of crude phosphate; since if its utility be established, it would create a home market, which would not only increase the demand, but would be of incalculable benefit to the agricultural interest.