

Production of silver in United States.

499. The total value of the production of silver in the United States since 1848 has been \$825,724,517. In 1887 the estimated value was \$53,433,300.

Production of phosphate 1887.

500. The total quantity of phosphate or apatite shipped from Canadian mines in 1887 was 23,690 tons, valued at \$319,815, being an increase of 3,195 tons as compared with 1886. The only two places where this mineral is worked at present are in Ottawa County, Quebec, and north of Kingston, Ontario, and the quantity shipped came from the two districts in the following proportions :—Ottawa County mines, 19,589 tons ; and Ontario mines, 4,101 tons.

Countries to which phosphate exported.

501. The quantity exported was 23,152 tons, valued at \$433,217, and of this 705 tons went to the United States, and the rest to Great Britain and Germany. The exports to Great Britain of Canadian phosphates are largely increasing. In 1882 they formed only 6 per cent. of the total imports, and in 1886 were 12 per cent., having doubled in four years.

Output of phosphate 1888.

502. The total output in 1888 is said to have been 23,290 tons, of which 17,246 tons were exported, and the decrease in quantity is stated to be due to the difficulty of transportation from the mines.

Raw material at present all shipped.

503. Experiments are being made at the Central Experimental Farm to determine the value of crude phosphate as manure, when ground to an almost impalpable powder, and the result, if favourable, will be of the greatest value to agriculturists. It is to be regretted that no steps have yet been taken for the establishment of works in this country for 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 consider-