

a smaller production from the Ontario mines. 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, 20,396 tons ; and Ontario mines, 2,089 tons.

456. The quantity exported was 18,776 tons, valued at \$298,609, and of this 14,957 tons went to Great Britain, 2,643 tons to the United States, and 1,176 tons to Germany. Exports of phosphate, 1888.

457. The total production of phosphate in 1889 amounted to 33,198 tons, being the largest quantity yet produced. The amount was made up as follows :— Production of phosphate.

	Tons.
Exported to Europe.....	23,542
“ United States.....	4,176
Home consumption.....	480
Estimated quantity held over at mines.....	5,000
Total.....	33,198

Almost the whole quantity exported to Europe went to Great Britain.

458. During the year 1889 there was a very considerable amount of interest taken in England in the phosphate fields of Canada, and many endeavours were made in consequence to dispose of phosphate properties at enormously high figures. These endeavours were uniformly unsuccessful, but served to attract public attention to the Canadian deposits, and were the means of a number of genuine undertakings being entered into and a general impetus given to phosphate mining. The mineral is a comparatively scarce one, and the demand for it is steadily increasing ; and in view of these facts and of the approaching exhaustion of the guano beds of Chili and Peru, the outlook for this industry in Canada is most encouraging. Though the fact has not yet been thoroughly established, the results of experiments so far go to show that phosphate does not need to be necessarily treated with sulphuric acid in order to make it available as plant food, but that crude phosphate finely pulverized has an excellent effect as a fertilizer. This fact must Increasing value of phosphate.