

necessarily enhance the value of the mineral, and also bring its use well within the power of small farmers, who cannot afford to buy the high-priced fertilizers.

Exports of phosphate, 1877-1888. 459. The following table gives the exports of phosphate from 1877 to 1888 :—

EXPORTS OF PHOSPHATE FROM CANADA, 1877 TO 1888.

YEAR.	Quantity.	Value.	YEAR.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	\$		Tons.	\$
1877.....	2,823	47,084	1884.....	21,709	424,240
1878.....	10,743	208,109	1885.....	28,969	496,293
1879.....	8,446	122,035	1886.....	20,440	343,007
1880.....	13,060	190,086	1887.....	23,152	433,217
1881.....	11,968	218,456	1888.....	18,776	298,609
1882.....	17,153	338,357			
1883.....	19,716	427,668	Total.....	196,955	3,547,161

Of the above sum \$3,397,749 worth was exported from Quebec and \$149,412 from Ontario ; but a considerable quantity of Ontario phosphate is shipped from Montreal, and therefore included in the exports of Quebec.

Phosphate in United States, 1888. 460. The production of phosphate in the United States in 1888, principally in the Carolinas, was 433,705 tons of 2,240 lbs., valued at \$1,951,673.

Asbestos. 461. According to the *Mining Review*,* the mineral which is produced in Canada under the head of asbestos is in reality a form of serpentine called chrysotile, and is found in certain portions of the serpentine rocks of the Eastern Townships of Quebec. Though its existence was known for a number of years, no attempt to work the mineral was made until 1878, when 50 tons were taken out, since which time the industry has progressed rapidly, and in 1889 nearly 6,000 tons were taken out. The mining is practically confined to two sections, one at Thetford and the other at Black Lake, the two sections being about four miles apart. The mineral, while not suitable for millboard and steam packing, answers admirably for cements, paints, &c.

* February, 1890.