

IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE INTO GREAT BRITAIN, 1882-1891.

YEAR.	IMPORTS FROM CANADA.		TOTAL IMPORT.		Percent- age of Imports from Canada.
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	
		\$		\$	
1882.....	9,169	193,942	223,394	2,984,230	4·1
1883.....	18,514	324,674	276,578	3,960,615	6·7
1884.....	17,603	254,867	245,532	3,133,498	7·1
1885.....	24,062	370,847	272,200	3,056,397	8·1
1886.....	20,237	308,985	249,884	2,564,173	8·1
1887.....	21,497	321,073	317,424	2,988,562	6·7
1888.....	13,913	205,817	288,832	2,651,939	4·8
1889.....	25,898	345,713	341,547	3,424,692	7·5
1890.....	23,619	318,377	384,721	4,133,999	6·1
1891.....	15,918	263,944	256,772	3,058,189	6·2

757. The production of phosphate in the United States in 1891, principally in the Carolinas, was 587,988 tons of 2,240 lbs., valued at \$3,651,150. Phosphate in United States.

758. Phosphate is a comparatively scarce mineral, and there is a good demand for it; and in view of the fact that Canada is considered to possess deposits of the richest quality, the future of this industry should be a prosperous one, as means are devised for developing the deposits. 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 result would necessarily enhance the value of the mineral, and would also bring its use well within the power of small farmers, who cannot afford to buy the high-priced fertilizers. Increasing value of phosphate.

759. The mineral which is produced in Canada under the head of Asbestos. 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, as well as in some parts of Ottawa County, 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 developed rapidly, as shown in the subsequent table. 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 found in these districts is of the very highest quality, while elsewhere there are deposits of a lower grade, which, while not suitable for millboard and steam-packing, answer admirably for cements, paints, &c.