

gross amount received from sales of natural gas in 1893 was nearly \$367,000, and in 1894, \$313,754.

914. Natural gas has been found in considerable quantities in the United States, and has been largely utilized. It is not easy for many reasons to give any exact figures of its consumption, but measured by the displacement of fuel and the amount actually received from the sale of gas, it appears that in 1893 the value of the natural gas consumed in the United States was \$14,346,250. There has been a falling off since 1888, in which year—the high water mark year—the value was \$22,629,825, the decrease in 1893 being nearly 37 per cent. There was a falling off in 1894, for which year the value is given at \$11,000,000.

SALT.

915. The salt produced in the Dominion is almost all manufactured in the Province of Ontario, the census returns showing 19 establishments in Ontario out of 20 reported for the Dominion. The salt beds of western Ontario cover an area of about 2,000 square miles, embracing the counties of Lambton and Huron, and portions of Bruce, Middlesex and Kent, and perhaps the whole of Essex. They were first discovered in 1865 at Goderich in boring for petroleum, and since that time wells have been sunk at Clinton, Seaforth, Brussels, Blyth, Wingham, Kincardine, Port Franks, Exeter, Courtright, Parkhill, Windsor and other places. In Kincardine the upper bed is reached at about 900 feet from the surface; in Goderich at 1,000 feet, in Courtright at 1,600 feet. A well drilled in Windsor in November, 1892, struck salt at a little over 1,127 feet. The thickness of the bed is 40 feet. The beds are usually three in number, with an aggregate thickness of about 100 feet, and the salt is of the best quality. The capital invested in salt works, according to the census of 1891, was about \$400,000, and 250 hands were employed.

916. The well referred to above as having been drilled at Windsor is worked by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. Subsequently the company drilled a second well, finding salt at a depth of 1,127 feet. In each case the company drilled through 40 feet of rock salt, then encountered rock 23 to 30 feet thick, then a second layer of salt 23 feet thick, then rock 5 feet thick, then 38 feet of salt. The rock salt is beautifully white in colour, and very free from impurities, particularly from lime, and as a result the company is able to turn out a very pure salt. These works have a capacity of about 600 barrels a day.

917. The total production in Canada in 1890 was 43,754 tons, of the value of \$198,897. This was an increase as compared with 1889, of 10,922 tons in quantity and of \$70,350 in value. In 1891 the production was 45,021 tons, valued at \$161,179, an increase of 1,267 tons, but a decrease in value of \$37,718. In 1892 the production was 45,486 tons, valued at \$162,041, and in 1893, 62,324 tons, valued at \$195,926, an increase of 17,838 in the number of tons and of \$33,885 in value. In 1894 there was a decrease in the quantity of 5,125 tons and in value of \$25,239.