

924. The value of silver has steadily decreased of late years as compared with that of gold :—

From 1493 to 1520 one ounce of gold was worth 13·3 ounces of silver.

1521	“	1544	“	“	11·2	“
1545	“	1580	“	“	11·5	“
1581	“	1600	“	“	11·9	“
1601	“	1620	“	“	13·0	“
1621	“	1680	“	“	14·0	“
1681	“	1740	“	“	15·0	“
1741	“	1780	“	“	14·8	“
1781	“	1870	“	“	15·0	“
1871	“	1873	“	“	16·0	“
1873	“	1875	“	“	16·5	“
		1876	“	“	17·8	“
		1877	“	“	17·2	“
		1878	“	“	17·96	“
		1879	“	“	18·39	“
		1880	“	“	18·05	“
		1881	“	“	18·16	“
		1882	“	“	18·19	“
		1883	“	“	18·64	“
		1884	“	“	18·57	“
		1885	“	“	19·41	“
		1886	“	“	20·78	“
		1887	“	“	21·13	“
		1888	“	“	21·99	“
		1889	“	“	22·09	“
		1890	“	“	19·76	“
		1891	“	“	20·92	“
		1892	“	“	23·72	“
		1893	“	“	26·49	“
		1894	“	“	32·81	“

It is estimated that about \$16,600,000 worth of silver is annually used in the Arts and Industries.

PHOSPHATE.

925. Phosphate or apatite, in its purest form, contains 92·26 per cent of phosphate of lime, equivalent to 42·26 per cent of phosphoric acid. The total quantity of this mineral mined in Canada during 1890 was 31,753 tons, valued at \$361,045, which was an increase over 1889 of 765 tons in quantity, and of \$44,383 in value. A certain number of tons, which cannot be estimated, should be added to the above quantity, representing the result of desultory operations by farmers on their own lots, particularly in Ontario. 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, 27,172 tons, and Ontario mines, 4,581 tons. In 1891 the quantity produced was 23,588 tons, valued at \$241,603 ; in 1892, 11,932 tons, valued at \$157,424 ; in 1893, 8,198 tons, valued at \$70,942 ; in 1894, 7,290 tons, valued at \$43,940.

926. The following table of exports since 1878 shows the position of this industry during the last seventeen years. The quantity exported in 1894 was 4,947 tons, valued at \$40,400, being a decrease, as compared with 1893, of 6,943 tons in quantity, and in value of \$92,475. The exports almost all go to Great Britain. It must not be forgotten that the figures of exports