

superphosphate, but because of propinquity to the great markets and consequent cheapness of freight.

752. The world's production of phosphates in 1891 aggregated as follows :—

	Tons of 2,240 pounds.
France.....	400,000
West Indies.....	50,000
Belgium.....	200,000
Canada.....	20,000
Germany.....	40,000
England (Coprolites).....	20,000
Russia, Norway, &c.....	100,000
United States.....	757,000
Total.....	<u>1,587,000</u>

753. The world's consumption is given below :—

	Tons.
United Kingdom.....	300,000
Germany.....	250,000
France.....	150,000
France (in the raw state).....	200,000
Belgium and Holland.....	75,000
United States.....	517,000
Other countries.....	55,000
Total.....	<u>1,547,000</u>

754. It will be seen that the demand and the supply are nearly balanced. In these circumstances, only the most easily and cheaply provided phosphates have a living chance in the competition. There is, however, a great future for phosphates. The United States are using only one-quarter of the quantity of fertilizers which should be employed to keep pace with the annual extraction of plant food from the soil. The Canadian Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Mr. Angers, in his report for 1893, refers to the matter in the following terms :—

“I am informed that comparatively little or nothing has been done during the past year as regards the phosphate industry of this country, the low prices ruling in the home market and the cheap rate of production which has enabled the Florida supply of the raw material to be laid down in Europe materially tending to injure, if not destroy, the Canadian trade. In this connection there is a point deserving of much consideration and to which I desire to call marked attention, viz., the amount of phosphoric acid that is taken out of the soil by a cereal crop, the shipment of the greater part of which abroad takes this phosphoric acid with it out of the country instead of returning it to the soil whence it is taken. Professor H. W. Wiley points out the fact that 19 lbs. per acre of phosphoric acid are absorbed by grain, and 12½ lbs. per acre are absorbed annually by the grass crop. This constituent element of the proper plant food, one of the chief essentials to all vegetable and animal life, must be restored to the soil unless the latter is to become entirely exhausted; and the agriculturist should understand that his farm is not a bank on which he can draw at