

488. The earliest records of production of petroleum in Russia commenced in 1821, though the existence of oil was known hundreds of years before. The Baku oil fields at the eastern extremity of the Caucasus Mountains are the most important. The total shipments of petroleum products from Baku, from 1883 to 1890, have been:—

|           | Galls.      |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1883..... | 145,180,705 |
| 1884..... | 262,621,710 |
| 1885..... | 300,149,775 |
| 1886..... | 377,006,120 |
| 1887..... | 389,816,630 |
| 1888..... | 609,428,571 |
| 1889..... | 806,399,999 |
| 1890..... | 842,742,074 |

It is expected that the shipments in 1891 will show an increase of from 16 to 20 per cent over those of 1890.

489. The petroleum industry in Burmah is not, at present, in a flourishing condition.

490. Natural gas has been known to exist in Canada for many years, but no attempt to put it to any practical use was made until July, 1885, when a well was sunk at Port Colborne, Ont., from which gas was utilized in the following August. Since then numerous wells have been sunk, but the two most productive gas fields so far discovered, are situated in Ontario, one in Essex County and one in Welland, the daily flow of gas in the latter county being 30,895,000 cubic feet. A pipe line connection has been made from these wells with the city of Buffalo. In Essex County, one well has a daily flow of 7,000,000 cubic feet, which gas is utilized in lighting the streets of Kingsville. Gas has also been found in small quantities in Quebec and the North-West Territories. The estimated available daily flow of natural gas in Ontario in January, 1891, was 50,000,000 cubic feet.

491. Natural gas has been found in very large quantities in the United States, and has been very largely utilized. It is impossible for many reasons to give any exact figures of its consumption, but measured by the displacement of coal it appears that in 1888 the consumption of natural gas in the United States was 14,063,830 tons, representing a value of \$22,629,875, being an increase in consumption, as compared with 1887, of 4,204,830 tons, or 42½ per cent.

492. The salt produced in the Dominion is almost all manufactured in Ontario, the largest number of wells being situated in the county of Huron, while a few are being operated in the counties of Lambton on the south, Bruce on the north, and Perth on the west. A small quantity of salt is produced annually in New Brunswick, but the output, which is a fine quality of dairy salt, is all sold locally.