

IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE INTO GREAT BRITAIN, 1882-1890.

YEAR.	IMPORTS FROM CANADA.		TOTAL IMPORTS.		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	3,133,408	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

505. The production of phosphate in the United States in 1890, principally in the Carolinas, was 510,499 tons of 2,240 lbs., valued at \$3,213,795. Phosphate in United States.

506. Phosphate is a comparatively scarce mineral, and the demand for it is steadily increasing; and in view of these facts, and of the one that Canada possesses the highest quality, the future of this industry must 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 fact must necessarily enhance the value of the mineral, and will also bring its use well within the power of small farmers, who cannot afford to buy the high-priced fertilizers. Increasing value of phosphate.

507. There are at present only three manufacturers of fertilizers in Canada—in New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario, respectively—and the amount of material returned as manufactured in 1890 was 1,203 tons, valued at \$31,889. Fertilizers.

508. The mineral which is produced in Canada under the head of 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, and in 1890, 9,860 tons were taken out, the value of which was \$1,260,240. The Asbestos.