

THE PHOSPHATE TRADE.

Since our last report on the phosphate industry of Ottawa county the transportation of ore from the mines to the railway terminus at Buckingham, and thence to Montreal over the Canadian Pacific Railway, has been pushed with great activity. The Riviere du Lièvre, dotted with ore vessels plying between the mines and the landing at Buckingham, presents a busy scene, and although there has been a large accumulation of ore since the close of navigation last year the increased carrying facilities on the river insure its delivery at point of shipment early in the season. As will be seen by our statement of shipments for May, some phosphate was forwarded from Montreal during that month to Liverpool and Hamburg, the amount, however, being but 1,562 bags ground phosphate and 737 tons crude. The first shipment for the year was on May 12th per SS. *Kehweider* to Hamburg. Last season the first shipment was to Liverpool per SS. *Sarnia* on May 21st, and the shipments for the month aggregated 1,393 tons, all crude. Thus it will be seen that between May 21st and 31st in 1885 the shipments of crude phosphate exceeded those of this year from 12th to 31st of May by 656 tons. This is accounted for by the present unsettled condition of the fertilizer market in England and on the Continent and by the fact that miners show no desire to sell and are not offering their output at present prices. There has been some uncertainty with regard to ocean freight, which has, in a measure, checked the forwarding of phosphate. Miners are not uneasy as to the prospects for the future and are sanguine that the fertilizer market abroad will recover later in the season and that better prices will be obtainable for Canadian phosphate, which is always more or less in demand. They are also hopeful of securing lower freight rates than are being offered at the present time, and they have good reason to expect this. Meanwhile the ore is finding its way to Montreal in large quantity and will there remain ready to be forwarded when sold. It is not improbable that in future a large quantity of ground phosphate will be shipped to Hamburg and other European ports, and that there will henceforth be a large and increasing demand in the United States for Canadian phosphate in a ground state is already assured.

The Portland (P.Q.) Phosphate Mining and Milling Company have taken orders that will tax their mill to its full capacity for several months. This company's mill is one of the most complete of its kind in America and performs its work in a most satisfactory manner. The several operations to which the ore is subjected reduce it finally to an impalpable powder and by ingenious contrivances a large percentage of the foreign matrix is expelled, thus bringing up the percentage of tribasic phosphate of lime several units. The mica extracted in this manner is saved and sold at a fair price. In the last issue of the REVIEW we reported sales of 4,000 tons of ground phosphate for the Buffalo, Cleveland and Chicago markets. This, according to newspaper reports, has been magnified to 10,000 tons, but we have received no verification of these figures and are not inclined to think that any such quantity has been sold. This would represent quite one-third of

the entire year's production, besides which the capacity of the mill is only 40 tons per day, and if worked night and day it could not grind 10,000 tons in less than six months, all things considered.

THE MINES.

The force of miners employed in the *du Lièvre* district has not varied since the winter and the mines are yielding ore in abundance. *High Rock*, the *Union* mines, the *North Star*, the *Little Rapids* and the *Emerald* have large reserves of ore in sight and at other mines in the district important developments have been made. At the *Glasgow-Canadian* mine in the Township of Derry, the shaft is now down 140 feet cutting two parallel veins, one of green and the other of red and green phosphate, aggregating about six feet of mineral. The ore is of very high grade and appears to be comparatively free from impurities. Another instance of successful deep mining is at the *Battle Lake* mine where a large body of ore has been laid bare in the bottom of the main shaft. The ore here is also very pure and the manager is of the opinion that all the small veins in the vicinity of the shaft are feeders to this ore body. This last mentioned mine is in the Township of Templeton and has recently been acquired by the Anglo-Canadian Phosphate Company. The *McLaurin* mine in Templeton continues to occupy a place on the list of heavy producers, and many less important mines in the County of Ottawa are contributing to the output of the district.

Important mining operations are going on at the phosphate mines in the Perth district. Messrs. Wilson & Green, of Montreal, are opening up a very promising location in North Burgess in the interest of an English company. Suitable machinery has been erected on the property which, it is expected, will develop into a rich and valuable mine. The Anglo-Canadian Phosphate Company are also preparing for extensive operations on the tracts of phosphate land they have acquired in this district. A much larger quantity of phosphate will be forwarded from the Perth district during this season than was forwarded last year.

Phosphate Quotations.

Comparatively little phosphate has yet been sold for shipment and owners are holding back. Shippers report that at the prices asked by miners, little business can be done. Miners, on the other hand, cling to the belief that prices will stiffen, and are not disposed to sell at the present ruling quotation of one shilling for 80 per cent. with a fifth of a penny rise. London brokers report that they can sell Canadian mineral phosphate at 1s. for 80 per cent., ex ship London or Liverpool, and the lower grades, viz., 75, 70 and 65 per cent., at correspondingly lower prices. South Carolina, and in fact all mineral phosphates, have been selling at lower prices than last year, notwithstanding that manufacturers are delivering largely to farmers. The present sluggish condition of the market in raw material is partly due to the season being a late one.

PHOSPHATE SHIPMENTS FROM MONTREAL FOR MAY 1886.

Date.	Vessel.	Destination	Shippers or agents.	Tons.
May 25	S.S. Oxenhalome	Liverpool.	Wilson & Green.	27
"	"	"	Lamer, Rohr & Co.	350
May 12	S.S. Kehweider.	Hamburg.	W. M. Knowles	*1562 bags

*Ground phosphate.

Ocean Freight.

Shipping brokers of Montreal expressed some uneasiness after the opening of navigation in the St. Lawrence, on account of apparent uncertainty of freight rates for phosphate transportation. This, however, appears now to have been unfounded, as we learn of shipments having already been made at three to four shillings per ton to Liverpool, and future shipments have been contracted for at similar rates. The ruling ocean freight rate for phosphate for this season will, in all probability, be much the same as for 1885, viz.: about five shillings and sixpence per ton.

Villeneuve Mica Mine.

During the past month the British and Canadian Mica and Mining Company have been actively opening up this valuable property and constructing a good waggon road from it to the Riviere du Lièvre. A commodious cutting-house has been established by the company in Buckingham Village, to which the mica is forwarded from the mine in sacks after having been carefully examined and split into convenient thicknesses. Experienced cutters have arrived from Franklin, North Carolina, until now the headquarters of the mica industry, and a number of boys and women are employed to split the mica for the cutters and to clean it when cut into sizes preparatory to sorting and packing it into 1 lb. packages for the market. The daily production of the *Villeneuve* mine will soon reach one hundred pounds of merchantable mica, which will be considerably in excess of that of any other individual mica mine on this continent. We purpose giving a full description of this mine in our next issue.

Oil Discovered.

Some excitement has been caused by the discovery of oil wells four miles from Shequanah on Grand Manitoulin. On May 17th, while a number of men were boring under the supervision of Mr. W. Thomas Newman they struck oil at a depth of 58 feet. It spouted out in a clear stream over the heads of those who were drilling. They continued boring, and at a depth of 75 feet came upon a vein of mineral water, iron and salt, from which there was a strong flow of gas. Mr. Newman then proceeded to Toronto, taking samples with him, and has since purchased tanks and pumps and will put down the latter as quickly as wells can be bored. Upwards of 14 tons of machinery are already on the ground and it is the intention to continue boring to a depth of 300 to 400 feet. The oil met with at 58 feet is surface oil of a very valuable description and peculiarly suitable for machinery.

COAL IN FRANCE.—The output of coal in France in the second half of last year was 10,157,630 tons. This total presents an increase of 780,919 tons, as compared with the output in the first half of 1885. The production of coal in France for the whole of 1885 was 19,534,311 tons, as compared with 20,023,514 tons in 1884.

DISCOVERY OF QUICKSILVER MINES IN RUSSIA.—A very important discovery of cinnabar mines has been recently made in the mining region of the Don, Russia. The ore is stated to contain from 69 to 80 per cent. of pure mercury.