

a difficult matter, as a basis for a generally admitted comparison is wanted. England has had so far the lead in almost all industries; we may therefore be allowed to accept the theory of their most eminent chemist and technologist Muspratt, who says that the intelligence and the development of a country should be measured by its consumption of Sulphuric Acid, Iron and Sugar.

The estimate of the present American production of Sulphuric Acid at four hundred million pounds per annum, is decidedly an inside one, and the consideration that of this vast amount not one pound is used for the manufacture of Soda Ash, of which for reasons mentioned before, England has the monopoly is a proof of the extraordinary producing and consuming powers of the United States. Besides for refining petroleum, this large quantity is used in all kinds of chemical industries, for which it is the basis, as iron is for all mechanical purposes.

At least three quarters of this amount has been produced only since the war of the Union, after which by amassed fortunes a great many industries received a stimulus.

Since that time Americans have started in all possible branches, and we find them now the largest manufacturers of mineral acids, tartaric, citric, acetic, oxalic, and chemically pure acids, of the Alkaloids and all kinds of chemicals, dyeing and photographic preparations, fertilizers, drugs, mineral and organic colors, paints and varnishes, etc.