

into superphosphate. But experience gradually overcame these difficulties, and Canadian Phosphate of Lime, or Apatite, is now recognized as the richest available source of phosphoric acid, and all that can be produced is readily sold in the markets of the United Kingdom and Germany; phosphate of 80 per cent. quality being worth at present about twenty-two dollars per ton at Montreal.

The use of phosphate is rapidly increasing as agricultural education spreads; and there appears to be a certainty of an ever growing demand. The imports of phosphate into the United Kingdom in 1887 were 283,415 tons, as stated by Mr. Herman Voss. The annual product of Carolina and Florida now exceeds half a million tons, and quantities are produced in France, Belgium, Spain and the West Indies. Most of these phosphates however are of low grade, yielding from 40 to 60 per cent. of phosphate of lime, and, with the exception of a limited quantity produced from the island of Curaçoa, there is no phosphate in the world that averages as high in quality as the Apatite which is found so largely in Canada, and to a more limited extent in Norway and Spain.

The phosphate deposits of Canada, which so far have been worked, are found in Ottawa County, in the Province of Quebec, and in Ontario, in the Counties of Lanark, Leeds, Frontenac and Renfrew. The first mining was done in the Township of North Burgess, Lanark County, and about the year 1863 extensive investments were made in lands in that township, near the Rideau Canal, as high as \$300 per acre having in some cases been paid. In 1872 mining was begun on the Lievres river and gradually increased until 1880, when English and American capitalists embarked in the industry and prosecuted work on a large scale with the aid of steam machinery. Previous to this time hand labor only was employed and a good proportion of the output was obtained by farmers, who discovered the mineral on their lands and worked at it in a desultory manner as attention to their farm duties permitted. Organized companies employing from 100 to 150 men, with the aid of drills, hoists and pumps,