

VOLCANIC ASH.

Volcanic ash is a finely comminuted substance ejected by volcanos, similar in composition to pumice. In Nebraska and other western states of the United States and in the western part of Canada deposits of this are found extending over large areas and many feet in thickness. In many cases it is impure, being mixed with sand, silt, clay, etc., while in others the beds are very pure, white, and made up of decidedly angular grains fairly uniform in size.¹

There is no record of any use having been made of the Canadian material except for local consumption, but the deposits of Nebraska have been extensively exploited.

At one time the name *geyserite* was incorrectly applied to this material. It is now generally spoken of as *volcanic ash*, *volcanic dust* or *native pumice*. For trade purposes other names have been adopted, such as *diamond polish* and *gibson grit*.

Though often occurring in a loose earthy state, volcanic ash is found also in a somewhat compact form, necessitating passing it between rolls to break up the lumps.

In many cases, where exact uniformity of size of grain is not demanded, the crude material, without any sifting or bolting, is found to be satisfactory.

USES.

The principal uses of volcanic ash are for the making of scouring soap and soap powder, and metal polishes.

PRICES.

The price of the crude material for soap making purposes ranges from \$6 to \$20 per ton, the average price being \$14.

¹ See "Notes on Deposits of Pumice," p. 623, Mineral Resources of the United States, part II, 1907, and "Volcanic Dust and its Present Production in Nebraska," page 828, Mineral Industry, 1907.