

thousands of dollars, a visit to some of the best Portland cement works in England—where he was admitted as a special favor—and the service of two experts in the construction of a suitable plant, before they could produce a commercial article. But the Rathbun Company and the Owen Sound Company have succeeded, and during the last two years they have been producing a Portland cement which satisfies every requirement.

Mr. C. H. Rust, Deputy City Engineer of Toronto, makes this statement concerning it, in a letter which I have just received from him :

"Since 1892 we have used a quantity of Portland cement made by the Rathbun Co. at Napanee mills, and by the Owen Sound Company at Shallow Lake. Both these brands are quite equal to the majority of the imported cements, and no doubt when their facilities for manufacturing are increased nearly all the cement used in this city will be of home manufacture."

The Owen Sound Co. has recently had the misfortune to lose its mill by fire, but it is understood that a new one is in course of erection. The company has a large supply of raw material alongside of the works, suitable clay for mixing being found immediately below the marl, and doubtless the capacity of the new mill will be made to meet the growing requirements of the trade.

The only other Portland cement works in the Province are in Marlbank in the County of Hastings. The site was chosen because of its nearness to a very large deposit of marl; but although English capital was put into the business, and presumably English experience also, the enterprise had to pass through the usual ordeal of disappointment and delay before a successful beginning was made.

The output of those three mills last year was 31,924 barrels, but one of them did not start till late in the season, and another worked only half the year. Had their capacity been six times as great they could hardly have supplied the quantity of Portland cement imported by Canada during the fiscal year 1892-3, and obviously therefore there is ample room for the home manufacture to grow. With raw material so abundant and accessible, and with capital seeking new channels of investment, and labor seeking employment, why should we not produce in the country all the Portland cement that our market requires? An article of uniform quality will always be in request by customers, and