

concrete used by them in the construction of temples and other public buildings, some of whose walls have been standing 2,400 years. The great dome built by Agrippa, the friend of Augustus, "the immortal monument of the Pantheon," as Gibbon described it—now the church of Santa Maria della Rotonda—is an edifice in concrete, and though ravaged by fire and assulted by the Huns and Goths, it is still intact after more than 1,900 years. Concrete is the street engineer's material for street building, and his chief reliance in the making of it is not Roman or any other kind of natural cement, but the stronger and more durable Portland. In Toronto during the last five years not less than 150,000 barrels of cement have been used in making concrete for street construction, and of this quantity Mr. Rust tells me that not more than 4,000 barrels have been the native hydraulic cement. "Up to the last year or two," he says, "it was all imported Portland cement from Europe." In other towns and cities of the Dominion cement is also being used in steadily increasing quantities in building sewers and streets, and the results are so uniformly good that the material promises to grow steadily in favor. It is almost certain then that for many years yet to come the demand for Portland cement will continue, as experience proves the utility and permanency of the concrete roadbed.

But why should we remain dependent on foreign sources of supply for Portland cement? We have in Ontario abundance of raw material for producing it. In scores of localities beds of white shell marl of large extent and excellent quality are found, some of them at the bottom of lakes in which myriads of fresh water shells yet survive, to add to the thickness of the deposit as one generation follows another, others of them on the sites of lakes long ago filled up with peaty mould or drained by continental elevations. This marl, if unmixed with sand, clay, peat, or other matter of mineral or vegetable origin, is almost pure carbonate of lime, and furnishes the principal material for the manufacture of Portland cement. The necessary proportion of clay is a matter of experiment; but in all cases the purer and more uniform the quality of the marl, the easier it is to get a right mixture. Our manufacturers in Ontario have acquired their experience slowly and dearly.

Mr. Rathbun told me that it cost him five years of testing, with the aid of a chemist, before he was convinced that it would be safe to start his works. Mr. Butchart also told me that it cost his company several