

disposed to accept as likely. For Ontario however the ratios of labor to product were 1 : 2.40 and 1 : 2.70 for the former and latter years respectively, while for the other Provinces they were 1 : 2.95 and 1 : 2.27. The use of improved machinery would account for this disparity to some extent, although not wholly. So also would fluctuations in the price or the efficiency of labor. The latter cause can be dismissed as improbable, in view of the proximity of the Provinces; and while the former might flatter our vanity, it would in view of all the circumstances be fatuous to claim for it more than a very modest share of potency in the radical disturbance of ratios. The real cause will probably be found in the different scales of values adopted in different parts of the country, and it is to be regretted that in the census enumerations account was not taken of quantity as well as of value.

In the statistics collected by the Bureau of Mines last year the manufacturers of cement in Ontario gave the value of their product as \$127,415, while the number of workmen they employed was 224, and the amount of wages paid for labor \$60,208. Their product included 74,353 barrels of natural rock and 31,924 barrels of Portland cement. In 1890 there was no Portland cement made in our Province; yet the value of cement manufactured that year according to the census was greater than last year by \$25,985, while the number of workmen employed was less by 96, and the wages paid for labor less by \$20,963. Had we the output for the census year in quantity, the cause of the discrepancy would more clearly appear. The Bureau's returns of brick and tile for 1893 are also much lower in value than those of the census for 1890, but this is no doubt due to the fact that the financial stringency of last year caused many works to close down early in the season, while others were idle the whole year. The number of men employed was 2,874, the amount paid for wages \$531,686, and the value of product \$1,339,873—the ratio of labor to product being 1 : 2.52.

It has been shown that on the basis of values the manufacture of cement in Canada increased from \$91,658 in 1880 to \$251,175 in 1890. The whole of this product was consumed in the country, but it was far from supplying our needs. In the fiscal year 1880-1 we imported hydraulic, Roman and Portland cements to the value of \$53,765, and in 1890-1 to the value of \$313,690. But since the fiscal year 1886-7 the trade tables give us the quantity as well as the value of the cements