The condition of the export trade of the last four years is more clearly shown by this method, in the following table, than it could be by a mere statement of actual values :—

—	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	$	$	$	$
Actual value of exports......	102,006,490	100,586,853	99,528,351	106,378,752
Value at prices of previous year	101,946,000	103,906,000	99,627,000	111,317,000
Variation from prices	+ 61,000	— 3,319,000	— 100,000	+11,789,000
" quantities	+ 6,261,000	+ 1,900,000	— 958,000	— 4,939,000
Actual difference in value.....	+ 6,322,237	— 1,419,637	— 1,058,504	+ 6,850,401

—	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	$	$	$	$
Actual value of total trade*..........	223,711,520	213,680,836	204,780,862	216,966,232
Value at prices of previous year.....	226,277,000	221,087,000	215,781,000	221,434,000
Variation from prices	— 2,564,000	— 7,408,000	—11,002,000	+16,653,000
" quantities	+13,611,000	— 2,621,000	+ 2,103,000	— 4,469,000
Actual difference in value......	+11,048,324	—10,030,684	— 8,899,976	+12,185,370

*Imports for Home Consumption and Exports of Canadian produce only.

In order to ascertain in what proportion the changes in a series of years in the values both of particular items and in the grand total, have been due to an increased or diminished volume of articles or to a variation in their price, tables relating to the exports of Canadian produce have been prepared on a plan suggested some time ago, in the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society,* by Mr. Stephen Bourne, F.S.S., by which, by means of index numbers, it can be readily seen in what respects the results of the several years correspond to or differ from one another, both as regards quantity and price. The year 1883 has been taken as the year of comparison, because in that year—with the exception of 1892, 1893 and 1896 the total trade of the country reached the highest amount since Confederation, and, as long as the conditions of trade are fairly equal, it is not very material which year is used for the purpose. Individual calculations have been made for 63 distinct articles, in order to make up the several groups in the table, and these furnish a wide enough range for assuming that the remaining articles, many of which cannot, for want of definite information in the Trade and Navigation Returns as to quantities, be so estimated, may be taken in the same ratio as the specified articles are found to yield. The number 1,000 has been taken to represent the value of the exports of 1883, viz., $87,702,000, and has been divided up into so many numbers as there were specified articles, the values of which made up the sum of $87,702,000. This 1,000 has also been taken as the number for quantity