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

—	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	$	$	$	$	$
Actual value of exports..	100,586,853	99,528,351	106,378,752	119,685,410	139,920,932
Value at prices of previous year....	103,906,000	99,627,000	111,317,000	125,090,000	133,910,000
Variation from quantities	+ 1,900,000	— 958,000	+11,789,000	+18,712,000	+14,226,000
,, ,, prices....	— 3,319,000	— 100,000	— 4,939,000	— 5,405,000	+ 6,010,000
Actual difference in value	— 1,419,637	— 1,058,504	+ 6,850,401	+13,306,658	+20,235,525

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, 1896, 1897 and 1898, 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 and volume, and as the index number for value of each article, being divided by that of price, becomes the index number of quantity, the total represents the volume of last year's transactions as compared with the index of value. For example, in 1883 the exports of coal were 430,081 tons, valued at $1,087,411 ; in 1898 they were 1,082,123 tons, valued at $3,273,415 ; the price per ton being $2.52 and $3.02 respectively, or 20 per cent higher in 1898. The value index of 12·3 stands for 1883, but being multiplied by 1·20 we change it into 14·8 to represent the value, $1,298,000, which would have accrued had the price been the same as in 1898. Or, reversing the process, we divide the value index, 37·3 for 1898 by 1·20, giving 31·0 to show the value, $2,719,000, which the coal of that year would have realized had it been sold in 1883, and thus get the ratio of