

# AMERICAN ROCK CEMENT.

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## PRODUCTION.

The production of natural rock cement in the United States during the year 1900 amounted to 8,383,519 barrels. This is practically the average for the last five years.

The following table gives the amount and value of the natural rock cement produced in the United States during 1899 and 1900. The values are based on the price per barrel in bulk at the various factories.

The cost of package is always added to the bulk price of the cement. Approximately 85 per cent of the cement is now sold in cloth or paper sacks.

*Product of rock cement for 1899 and 1900.*

| State.                     | 1899.            |                 |           | 1900.            |                 |           |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------|-----------|
|                            | Number of works. | Quantity.       | Value.    | Number of works. | Quantity.       | Value.    |
|                            |                  | <i>Barrels.</i> |           |                  | <i>Barrels.</i> |           |
| Georgia .....              | 1                | 13,000          | \$9,750   | 1                | 28,000          | \$21,000  |
| Illinois .....             | 3                | 537,094         | 187,983   | 3                | 369,276         | 129,446   |
| Indiana and Kentucky ..... | 19               | 2,922,453       | 1,022,858 | 19               | 2,750,000       | 687,500   |
| Kansas .....               | 2                | 150,000         | 60,000    | 2                | 146,000         | 58,400    |
| Maryland .....             | 4                | 362,000         | 144,800   | 4                | 335,070         | 134,028   |
| Minnesota .....            | 2                | 113,986         | 56,793    | 2                | 109,403         | 54,701    |
| Nebraska .....             |                  |                 |           | 1                | 500             | 400       |
| New York .....             | 29               | 4,689,167       | 2,813,500 | 29               | 3,409,085       | 2,045,451 |
| Ohio .....                 | 3                | 34,557          | 17,279    | 3                | 35,029          | 17,514    |
| Pennsylvania .....         | 5                | 511,404         | 255,702   | 5                | 687,838         | 343,919   |
| Tennessee .....            | 1                | 10,000          | 8,000     | 1                | 10,000          | 8,000     |
| Texas .....                | 1                | 12,000          | 20,400    | 1                | 17,000          | 28,900    |
| Virginia .....             | 3                | 63,500          | 38,100    | 3                | 25,313          | 15,187    |
| West Virginia .....        | 1                | 52,727          | 21,090    | 1                |                 |           |
| Wisconsin .....            | 1                | 396,291         | 158,516   | 1                | 461,005         | 184,402   |
| Total .....                | 75               | 9,868,179       | 4,814,771 | 76               | 8,383,519       | 3,728,848 |

## CONSUMPTION.

*Total consumption of all kinds of cement in the United States to January 1, 1901.*

|                          | Barrels.    |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Natural rock cement..... | 186,973,127 |
| Imported Portland .....  | 35,732,514  |
| Domestic Portland .....  | 27,329,373  |
| Total.....               | 250,035,014 |

*Percentage of each kind.*

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Natural rock cement ..... | 74.78  |
| Imported Portland .....   | 14.29  |
| Domestic Portland .....   | 10.93  |
| Total.....                | 100.00 |

## PRICES.

The prices for natural rock cement during 1900 were somewhat lower than for the year 1899.

The depression was probably due to the fact that the prices for domestic Portland during the past year were the lowest ever known in the history of the industry.

There is a vast field for improvement in the natural cements of this country, and the manufacturers of this kind of cement are earnestly urged to institute a series of experiments with their raw material and faithfully record the results.

There is practically no limit to the opportunities for research in the line of testing different layers of rock under varying degrees of heat, and after calcination to mix them together in the grinding. If it is argued that such a process would prove more costly than the old way, it may be answered that the quality may become so improved as to permit of better prices.

Another avenue for improvement may be found in the mode of calcination. It is not at all certain that the prevailing continuous kiln will produce the highest testing cement. The try kiln, which is intermittent, very often produces samples that test much higher than can be obtained from the continuous kiln.

The manufacturers of natural cement who lead in the effort to improve their product will generally be found among those best and most favorably known in the trade.

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

The remarkable deposit of cement rock which was unearthed at Rossville, Ga., near Chattanooga, Tenn., and which was quite fully described in our report for 1899, has been developed by the construction of a first-class cement plant, and the product is finding a ready market.