520 wires. One of these forms the centre, the six others are placed around it. The 520 wires composing one strand are in fact one endless wire, obtained by splicing a number of single wires. The ends of strands are passed around and confined in cast iron shoes, which also receive the wrought iron pin that forms a connection with the anchor chains.

The strands were manufactured nearly in the same position, which they now occupy in the cables, with about one-third of their present deflection; this was for the purpose of increasing the tension of the wires, and to facilitate their adjustment.

All the preparatory operations, as oiling, straightening, splicing and reeling, were carried on in an extensive shed, erected on the Canada side, back of the anchorage.—The mode of splicing you have frequently witnessed, and have noticed that the wire will break at any other point, before it gives way at the splice. Fourteen large reels were constantly kept supplied with wire, ready prepared or spliced for going into the cables. The machinery for plying the wires across the river was worked by horse-power. The adjustment of the wires in the centre of the span, was intrusted to two intelligent workmen, who were stationed on a platform, suspended by four wire ropes, about forty feet above the upper floor. Communicating all orders by means of signal flags, this whole operation went on very satisfactorily, occasional interruptions from high winds, excepted. Owing to the influence of the sun, and the sudden changes of temperature of the wires on the opposite sides of a strand, during the progress of its manufacture, great care was required on the part of the men.