

HALIFAX AS A TERMINAL PORT

**Being Considered—Past Year's Business was Good—
Apple Shipments Constitute Record—West India
Trade Increasing.**

(Staff Correspondence).

Halifax, June 2.

The great influx of immigrants from Europe to Canada during the past winter has brought Halifax, N.S., prominently before the public. During the season just closed, 37,095 immigrants passed over the immigration piers of the I.C.R. terminus there, while there are several thousands yet to arrive. Last season, the total number was 16,343. The different steamship companies are now alive to the advantages of Halifax as an entering port to the Dominion from an immigration standpoint. The first-class passenger has also found that by landing at Halifax from the larger liners now crossing and calling at that port during the winter, he can be in Montreal before the ship reaches its point of destination. This has been demonstrated a number of times. Taking the average time of ten sailings of the "Mauretania," should she land her passengers in Halifax, thence by rail to New York, they would reach the latter city in thirty hours less time than if the steamer made direct sailings from Liverpool to New York.

Business of Halifax

The year 1909, from a business standpoint, was satisfactory in nearly all lines being reported. The export and import trade also show yearly increases.

The following are a few comparative figures regarding the business of Halifax:—

	No.	Tonnage.
1908 Vessels arrived	4916	1,793,610
1909 " "	4945	1,847,610
1908 Vessels departed	4694	1,673,464
1909 " "	4115	1,853,029
1908 Total imports		\$ 9,050,370
1909 " "		8,407,269
1908 " exports		9,769,143
1909 " "		10,015,509

Chief Commodities Exported and Values

	1908	1909
Lumber	\$1,061,003	\$ 796,293
Fish	4,445,965	4,896,510
Apples	894,583	1,190,431
Potatoes	424,175	541,674

Chief Commodities Imported and Values

	1908	1909
Dried fruit	\$ 109,740	\$ 102,150
Green " "	183,598	185,169
Sugar	2,190,523	2,532,635
Molasses	360,998	381,263

Quantity of Import and Export Freight Handled

	1908	1909
Domestic, inwards	261,822 tons	274,912 "
" " outwards	108,426 "	109,335 "
Foreign, inwards	97,460 "	158,135 "
" " outwards	123,578 "	174,335 "

Apples in Boxes Popular.

During the past winter, apple shipments totalled 839,207 barrels, 628 half-barrels and 4,888 boxes—a record number. Last year's shipments totalled 710,733 barrels, an increase for 1909-10 of 128,474 barrels. It is noticeable that the half-barrel, so favorably received a few years ago, is not so popular for apple packing purposes to-day; the more convenient box having taken its place. During the season 1908-09, the total number of boxes shipped was 3,052, while the past season they totalled 4,885. This latter method of packing is gradually growing in favor, the size of the package being more convenient than the barrel or half-barrel for persons living in apartment houses, flats, etc., in cities like London, Manchester, etc., and having limited space for storage. It is generally believed, by those who are in a position to judge, the export of apples will in a few years reach 1,000,000 packages from an average crop, as a great many new orchards are coming into bearing every year.

The Customs receipts of Halifax, during 1909, show an increase over the previous year of \$145,374; the total revenue collected being \$1,733,144, compared with \$1,587,770 the year previous. About \$10,000 more was collected in harbor and other dues.

The civic assessment has increased the past 30 years as follows:—

	1879-80	1889-90	1899-00	1909-10
	\$15,603,578	\$21,794,620	\$23,122,087	\$28,651,005

The total Canadian trade through Halifax port with the West Indies and British Guiana for the year 1909 amounted to \$12,732,026, an increase of \$347,754 over 1908, when it amounted to \$12,384,272.

The principal import from these countries to Halifax is still sugar, the total amount for the year 1909 being 47,613 tons—practically all for the Acadia Sugar Refinery. Molasses and syrup importations were valued at \$863,304.

During the past few years the import of oranges from West Indies and British Guiana has fallen off, owing to the fact that Californian oranges have been lower in price, and, as a rule, consignees found the United States fruit in better condition when received. The value of West Indian oranges imported during the year was \$33,480.

Some of the Shipments

Fish shipments to the West Indies during 1909 showed an increase of about 10,000 barrels over 1908 and nearly double the quantity of 1907.

Hay and oats shipments also increased; the fact that Dutch oats have been offered at a much lower figure than the holders of Canadian oats could sell has probably interfered with a greater quantity being shipped. Hay shipments were valued at \$25,035; oats, \$140,000.

Other articles shipped to the above ports were: Split peas, valued at \$104,500; butter and cheese, \$80,000; cordage, \$26,350, and potatoes, \$269,500.

Nearly all these articles show an increase over the previous year.

It is gratifying to know our trade with the West Indies is increasing, noticeably in the wholesale grocery line, owing to the fact of better representation on the Islands than in former years. It is believed that larger trade can be obtained for Canadian products if our merchants study business conditions more, it being found that, all things equal, a preference is given goods of Canadian make.

Value of Natural Products

The total values for the past four years of the natural products of Nova Scotia, a large proportion of which are marketed through Halifax, are as follows:—

1906	1907	1908	1909
\$99,325,000	\$107,235,000	\$107,249,000	\$114,400,000

The large car works established in Halifax some two years ago is now working overtime, while the capacity of the factory is assured for the next year.

The company has supplied a large number of cars, both passenger and freight, for the Intercolonial Railway, Canadian Northern Railway, Halifax & South Western Railway and the Newfoundland Railway.

The credit of bringing a number of settlers to take up farms in the province is due to the energy of Mr. A. S. Barnstead, Secretary of the Department of Immigration. This department was established some two or three years ago by the Nova Scotia Government and is doing effective work. It has issued a large amount of literature and published letters from a number of English, Scotch and other European settlers, who have purchased farming properties in the province and have made good.

General Business Activity

With the establishing of two industries in Halifax during the past two years; increased business in all connections; the C.P.R. having purchased the Dominion Atlantic Railway between Yarmouth and Halifax, and another transcontinental line endeavoring to make terms of entry into the province; an estimated expenditure of upwards of half a million dollars, to make Halifax the Atlantic base of Canada's Navy, matters are looking bright for the future of that city.

It has become the customary thing to regard Halifax and its business methods as being slow and unprogressive, although a conservative feeling prevails in some circles that there is an active element growing in the business life of that city.

The Halifax Cold Storage Company established its warehouses at Halifax four years ago, and, in addition to affording facilities for public cold storage, has been carrying on a business in the fish and provision trade extending from Sydney to Vancouver. During last year this concern received in its warehouses, and afterwards distributed through Canada and United States, upwards of 10,000,000 pounds of fresh, frozen and mild-cured smoked fish.

This company has decided to double its capacity, and from the proceeds of the \$100,000 seven per cent. cumulative participating preferred stock recently issued, and which was underwritten and distributed during the past ten days by Messrs. F. B. McCurdy & Company, of Montreal, Halifax, Sydney, and St. John's, Newfoundland, will at once carry out the extensions needed.

This extension means a great deal to Halifax. It will allow of facilities for public cold storage which will in turn, give an opportunity for those in the trade to enlarge their business, while all round increased activity will result.