

THE CARRYING TRADE.

PEOPLE may sneer at any nation desiring to become the carrier of merchandise for the nations of the world, but history shows us that the Dutch and the English founded their greatness on this basis. Great Britain's merchant vessels make London the clearing market of the world.

To show how Great Britain overshadows all other nations on the seas, the following table of the number of steamers, with their net tonnage, that passed through the Suez Canal in 1894, will be useful:

Nationality.	Steamers.	Tonnage, net.
American	5	3,001 71
Australian	72	178,992 64
Dutch	2,524	6,094,992 98
Dutch	183	52,451 25
French	184	463,430 91
German	294	624,555 18
Italian	61	119,084 06
Norwegian	40	65,862 71
Russian	77	77,421 38
Spanish	15	24,269 52
Turkish	1	19,135 50
Japanese	6	12,101 56
Portuguese	2	672 20
Egyptian	1	210 28
Guatemalan	1	145 02
Total	3,152	8,032,105 97

Canada has paid some attention to the carrying trade. The steamship Empress of India, which plies between Japan and Vancouver, recently landed a large importation, consisting of 100 bales, of Japanese rugs, consigned to Messrs. Boyd, Harley & Co., of Philadelphia. This line of steamers carries raw silk, manufactured silk and teas for the United States, and Canada is proud of the fact.

But even thus, there has been too little attention paid to the carrying trade. Canadian cattle, Canadian wheat, Canadian apples and Canadian citizens leave Portland, Boston and New York on American ships, when they should leave Montreal, Quebec, St. John or Halifax on Canadian vessels. Canadians buy goods in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France and Great Britain, and these packages come to New York on American ships and are transferred to the Canadian frontier on foreign railroads.

The United States and other foreign carriers are to be congratulated on their enterprise; the Canadian carriers are to be pitted for their lack of shrewdness, energy and foresight.

APRIL TRADE RETURNS.

LAST April (1894) Canada was not doing as well as her citizens expected, and to compare the trade returns of April, 1895, with April, 1894, would be misleading. To avoid this we publish the returns for the three years, 1893, 1894 and 1895.

The total trade in 1893, as indicated by the returns, was \$13,379,362. In 1894 this declined to \$11,944,076. In 1895 we have overtopped both years, and the total is \$13,936,849, and have done much better than in 1894. This is a strong proof that Canada is steadily advancing. The world wide depression of last year was keenly felt, but it was not sufficient to down the sturdy Canuck who engages in trade, and this year finds him bright, smiling and hustling once more.

But while general trade is good, the dry goods importers can find mighty little consolation in the returns. Cottons have

been imported more freely, but all other lines show a decrease. This showing is, perhaps, due to two causes. Firstly, the decline in values of textile goods may cause the figures to indicate a greater falling off than has actually occurred. That is, the quantity may be about stationary, and only values decreased. Secondly, domestic goods have displaced imported goods to a small extent. This is due to the increased excellence of domestic goods and the tendency, induced by hard times and low prices, to buy lower-priced textiles. This is very true of woolens, but is less applicable to the other lines of textiles.

The following table will be found interesting and instructive:—

ARTICLE.	APRIL, 1895.	APRIL, 1894.	APRIL, 1893.
Textiles imports:			
Cotton manufactures	\$ 419,546	\$ 316,538	\$ 494,256
Fancy goods and embroideries	12,749	161,312	130,710
Fur manufactures	58,113	74,818	71,234
Hats, caps, etc	101,753	114,941	115,127
Silk manufactures	191,881	191,186	192,124
Woolens	567,320	605,492	705,595
General imports:			
Total dutiable goods	4,848,156	4,919,852	5,350,926
" free	4,026,937	3,135,214	3,566,516
Coin and bullion	34,701	66,163	47,348
Total	\$ 8,909,796	\$ 8,115,229	\$ 9,364,800
Exports:			
Produce of Canada	4,769,804	3,377,540	3,817,205
" other countries	657,229	415,397	172,359
Total	\$ 5,027,033	\$ 3,792,937	\$ 3,989,564
Circulation	\$10,882,763	\$10,575,691	\$11,844,185

AMERICAN CARPETS IN ENGLAND.

AMERICAN carpets are going into England, but few persons are alarmed thereat. These importations are mainly composed of the cheapest grades of ingrain, made almost entirely of cotton. These are sold in England at a lower price than is received by the same makers in the United States. They are sold in Canada on a similar basis.

But, besides selling them cheaper in England than in the home market, there is another reason why they can compete successfully in the British market. The machinery used on this side of the water is better than that used in England for the production of these carpets.

However, little is feared by the English carpet manufacturers. This cheap grade is the only one in which the United States makers can compete profitably, and this line is declining in popularity. Three-quarter goods are gradually cheapening, and people will prefer Brussels and tapestry to ingrain, if the difference in price is not too great. This preference can be seen in Canada also.

The Textile Mercury (Manchester), speaking of this, says: "With reference to the exports of carpets from the United States, an idea of the growth of the business is afforded by the fact that in 1890 9,000 square yards of carpet were exported from the Republic; in 1891 there were 26,000 square yards; in 1892, 11,000 square yards; in 1893, 18,000 square yards, and in 1894, 287,188 square yards. The special exports of the Smith Company are almost wholly responsible for the great increase in the exports in 1894, and there is no reason to doubt that the carpet exports for 1895 will show a healthy increase over last year. It is an interesting fact that in 1894, for the first time in the history of carpet-making, America sent more carpets to England than England sent back in return. Some authorities, it should be noted, report American exports of carpets for 1894 at 306,000 yards."