A rouble is about 52 cents. Of the total import trade in 1902, no less than 490,808,000 roubles represents the value of the trade by the European frontier, 12,320,000 roubles that by the Caucasus and Black Sea, and 23,967,000 roubles that of the special trade with Finland. That is to say, eleven-twelfths, or more, of her trade is done over the European frontier, leaving only less than one-twelfth for the Black Sea and the Caucasus. The principal countries of origin of the trade are indicated in the following table:

	1901. Roubles.	1902. Roubles.
Germany	208,823,000	202,886 000
Great Britain	102,913,000	99,307,000
United States	34,111,000	39,150,000
France	27,566,000	26,284,000
Austria-Hungary	24.858,000	23,506,000
China	21,440,000	19,446,000
Egypt	18 299,000	15,082,000
Netherlands	8,545,000	11,337,000
East Indies	6,590,000	10,190,000
Italy	10,224,000	9,213,000

The following table shows the value of the exports by categories in each of the years 1901 and 1902.

	1901. Roubles.	1902. Roubles.
Food products	430,955,000	526,189,000
Products for industrial use	256,697,000	258,267,000
Animals	20,224,000	21,558,000
Manufactured articles	21,939,000	19,263,000
Total	729,815,000	825,277,000
	£77,036,000	£87,112,000

The subjoined table shows the export trade according to frontiers. It is growing rapidly with Britain, Germany and the Netherlands. Also a little with the United States but apparently not with the east.

Exports	1901. Roubles.	1902. Roubles.
European frontier	607,628,000	708,255,000
Caucasus and Black Sea	83,488,000	78,992,000
Finland	38 699,000	38,030,000

Of these exports, the larger share goes to Germany, who received 203,596,000 roubles' worth last year as compared with 178,356,000 in the previous year, an increase of 12½ per cent. But the growth of her exports to Great Britain was still more remarkable, going up as they did from 156,751,000 roubles in 1901 to 188,775,000 last year, an increase of 17 per cent. The Netherlands come third in the list of countries to whom Russia exports largely: they took 103,000,000 roubles' worth last year.

Great hopes have been built upon the construction of the Siberian railway, and many predictions have been indulged in as to the future greatness of the traffic it will carry. But while the traffic has certainly grown, it must be admitted that thus far the commercial policy of Russia on the Pacific shores is not encouraging. Vladivostok, which used to be virtually a free port, was to be the most wonderful of ports on the Pacific. But at the beginning of 1901 Russia imposed such heavy duties that the business of the place was almost killed, the foreign trade being ruined. The fact that Vladivostock, being pretty far north, was ice-bound for several months of the year, compelled in recent years the seeking of a terminus for the trans-Siberia railway farther south. It was found on the warmer waters of the Gulf of Pechili. There, despite of China, she has built besides the naval and military arsenal of Port Arthur, another city, named Dalny, advertised as a free port. It has not proved a satisfactory port, however, to foreign traders, and the development of trade by her Siberian railway is hindered by the arbitrary character of Russian regulations and their lack of modernness.

BUILDING TRADES RESUME IN NEW YORK

The intelligence from New York that twenty thousand of the skilled mechanics in the building trades of New York city returned to work on Monday last under the modified plans of the Employers' Association, is welcome. It is further stated that the number of men at work would be increased to 50,000 on yesterday, unions with that membership having voted to accept the terms of the employers. It is especially satisfactory to learn that one of the terms abolishes walking delegates and refers all disputes to a joint board of arbitration. For the trades unions to get rid of walking delegates, most of whom were firebrands and some of whom were flagrantly dishonest, is a triumph for the cause of honest and reasonable labor. The despatch of Monday adds that the United Board of Building Trades held a long and stormy meeting on that day. The four unions which accepted the plan of arbitration offered by the Building Trades' Employers' Association, and which sent their men back to work to-day, were expelled from the board. These four unions are Mosaic and Encaustic Tile Layers, the Hexagon Labor Club of Tile Layers' Helpers, the Electrical Workers and the United Cement Masons.

THE INTEREST IN CURRANTS.

As is well known, the main modern production of Greece, or at any rate, the one which renders that historic country famous commercially to-day throughout the world, is currants, or as they are known there, Corinthian grapes. The acreage devoted to this crop is about 170,000 acres divided among some 85,000 cultivators. At present prices, and under present conditions, the returns from the industry are barely sufficient to make it pay; but this does not prevent matters connected with it being the chief centre of interest, and the main theme of conversation, and of newspaper articles for several months of each year. As is the subject of wheat to the farmers of our own Western provinces during the growing summer time. so are currants to the people of Peloponnesus and Patras—only more so. Every now and then a "crisis" arises in the trade, owing to the over-production which has almost become chronic, a feature which, no doubt, would be even more marked than it is, were it not for the periodic visitation of the dreaded peronosporos, the blight produced by which, while doing at times immense damage, yet prevents prices from falling to absolutely ruinous depths.

Another thing which is intended to have a similar effect is of a more artificial character. This is governmental interference, taking the shape of what is known as the Retention Law, by means of which the surplus crop over a certain quantity has been sold at a comparatively low price to local distillers and wine makers. In the past, the proportion "retained" was not to exceed 20 per cent. of the crop, but this often being found not to satisfy the requirements of the case, ever and anon a cry is raised for larger retention powers, or for the entire removal of the restriction as to percentage.

This is what has been going on during the last six months or so, but then, while the excitement was running at its highest —and the Greeks are an excitable people—the offer was made by a British syndicate, with a capital of $1,000,000, to purchase during the next twenty years the entire crops up to 150,000 tons annually, at fixed prices, according to well marked grades and sizes. In exchange for this, the company would have the sole privilege of exporting currants form Greece. The idea was received by a majority of the growers in Greece with avidity, the guaranteed prices suggested being considerably better than those which have prevailed as a general average. Owing to the protracted discussion which took place, however, in the Grecian Parliament, and to many proposed modifications in the contract, there is a chance that the negotiations may fall through, although there seems to be a likeli-