

involve myriads of transactions, all of which are made without any regard being shown by individual exporters and importers to the general balance of trade. Merchants learn the conditions of the money market, by the rate of exchange. This information they get day by day and do not have to wait for official returns.

It is remarkable how generally the imports of countries exceed the exports. Statistics relating to foreign trade are made up on such different systems, and, for so many countries, are so long delayed publication, it is impossible to give as complete and as accurate an exhibit of the world's commerce as is desirable. The figures in the table accompanying this article are derived from several sources and may be taken as estimates based on official returns.

Mr. Mulhall considers that 12 per cent. of the original value of merchandise, when shipped, should be added for freight, commissions, etc., in order to arrive at the cost to the importer. This has to be considered, but, as both imports and exports are subject to those changes, the 12 per cent. does not wholly clear away the trade balance.

Another point, amongst others, for which we have not space, is that the shipments of one country to another though, on the surface, these transactions create balances for or against such countries in favour or adverse to such traders, they may really be a form of business which creates no such balances, as the goods may be sent for re-shipment to merchants in some other market who will have to arrange for the settlement of any indebtedness that has arisen.

The imports and exports returns of a country are thus liable to be duplicated. In any case, the re-export trade of goods merely bought for transmission abroad, either in the same condition as they were in when originally shipped, or, after being passed through a manufacturing process, forms a very large element in international trade.

So far as Canada is concerned, it is her interest to import only such goods as are in active demand and proportionate thereto, so as to avoid accumulations of goods unsaleable except at a sacrifice. It is also her Canada's interest to export as much of manufactured products as her industries can turn out which can be sold at a profit. If those two principles are observed she will derive advantages from all her imports as well as exports. Under such conditions there will never arise any unfavourable balance of trade, for, whether imports or exports are in excess, as both yield profits, when trading is wisely conducted, the whole foreign trade will work out to the country's advantage.

VALUE OF SANITATION.—The city of Chicago has had its typhoid fever cases reduced in the last ten years by over 75 per cent., owing to closer attention being given to sanitation.

THE SOVEREIGN BANK.

The third annual meeting of the Sovereign Bank was held at Toronto on 13th inst., when a statement was presented which met with expressions of the highest satisfaction from a large number of shareholders.

The growth of this Bank has been phenomenal. When it is considered that it has only been three years in operation its expansion must be regarded as an extraordinary exhibit of enterprise and energy on the part of the general manager, Mr. D. M. Stewart.

The net profits last year amounted to \$133,975.67, which is 10.30 per cent. on the paid-up capital. To this sum there being added \$6,112.65 brought from last year made a total of \$140,088, which was distributed as follows: 4 quarterly dividends at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum took \$65,000; \$50,000 was added to reserve fund; \$10,000 was written off bank premises; \$5,000 was reserved as rebate on undue bills, and the balance of \$10,088 was carried forward at credit of profit and loss to next year. The reserve fund now stands at \$400,000, which is a good record for 3 years' work. In the past year the "deposits not bearing interest," rose from \$1,079,762 to \$1,588,943, and those bearing interest from \$4,611,691 to \$6,727,261, the increase in total deposits last year having been \$2,624,751, which is an addition of over 46 per cent. The bank has now 26,725 depositors and 6,185 discount accounts all acquired in three years.

The current loans and discounts rose last year from \$4,773,362 to \$6,599,405, or close upon two millions of dollars, which is a gratifying feature in the statement. Other loans were increased to extent of \$326,757.

The assets immediately available amount to \$4,746,398, which equals 70 per cent. of the deposits payable after notice and 57 per cent. of the gross amount of deposits. These liquid assets exceed 40 per cent. of the bank's total liabilities. The surplus over all public liabilities is over \$1,700,000 which is a very favorable feature.

Mr. Stewart paid his staff a handsome compliment by saying it is one of the bank's best assets. Certainly the remarkable success achieved by the Sovereign Bank is evidence of the staff having worked zealously in concert with their indefatigable general manager. The edifice just about completion erected by the bank on St. James St. in this city is a handsome building and will prove a most convenient suite of offices. The staff, we are informed, will assume possession on 1st July next.

The president announced that the dividend would be increased to 6 per cent. It was also stated that applications had been received for more than the total issue of the new stock, which, when issued, would raise the capital to \$1,400,000 and the reserve fund to \$425,000.