

Melado, &c.—

	Lbs.	Value.
From Brazil.....	289,955	\$8,458
“ Spanish West Indies.....	3,578,247	93,878
	3,868,202	\$102,336

Molasses for refining—

	Galls.	Value.
From British West Indies.....	18,636	\$4,458
“ Spanish West Indies.....	150,122	35,503
“ British Guiana.....	24,260	5,010
“ Brazil.....	745	37
	193,763	\$45,008

Molasses not for refining, imported direct from the country of growth—

	Galls.	Value.
From British West Indies.....	2,138,206	\$654,401
“ Spanish West Indies.....	676,223	184,444
“ Danish West Indies.....	814	244
“ British Guiana.....	348,246	105,225
	3,163,489	\$944,314

Grand total..... \$5,065,200

The total value of imports from West Indies and South America in Canada is \$5,497,002, of which, as we see, \$5,065,200 was sugars and molasses; so that it appears that the imports from these countries, excluding sugar and molasses, amount to the value of \$431,802. I have given a statement from the Blue-books, which are correct, of the exports and the imports. Let us place the totals together and see whether the balance of trade is against us, or in our favor. The total imports from these countries amount to \$5,497,002, the exports \$3,936,734, showing an excess of imports over exports, amounting to \$1,560,268; that is to say, that we import goods to the value of upwards of \$1,500,000 more than we export to those countries. Perhaps some persons may say that we cannot make this comparison, because the goods may not be estimated at their cost. But the goods we send there are estimated at the cost in this country, while the goods we import are estimated at the actual cost in the country from which we import them, so that it is fair to contrast the two amounts and draw the conclusion, which is, that the balance of trade is against us to the extent of \$1,560,268. Before leaving the question of the balance of trade, it is proper I should give to the House the amount of the duties collected on the imports from Brazil and the West Indies. The amount of duties collected on the imports from the British West Indies is \$662,514.52; Spanish West Indies, \$943,791.41; French West Indies, \$9,255.05; other West India Islands, \$384.46; South America, \$504,255.74; making a total amount paid for Customs duties on the sugar, molasses, and other articles we import from the West Indies, Brazil, and other parts of South America, \$2,120,199.18. If we add the duty to the value of the goods we import we have a sum of \$7,617,201, while our export value is not quite \$4,000,000, and thus it comes to pass that a comparison shows, first, that we have a balance of trade against us amounting to more than \$1,500,000, and, second, that we pay more than \$2 for every \$1. But I have heard hon. members in this House, and outside of it, and I have also read in books, that balance of trade means nothing. It means nothing, or it means something, according to the way we understand it. If we look at the Blue-books of this country we will find that in some years the balance of trade is in our favor, and in other years it is against us, but it is generally against us; and many people are apt to think that if we go on in that way for many years, and if we do not obtain, as other countries do, money in some other way, we cannot continue to prosper. Those who make little of the balance of trade and who study English trade returns are in the habit of saying: “Look at England, she always imports so many

Mr FORTIN.

millions more than she exports.” But the imports of goods are not the only imports England receives. England is receiving every day millions of money from loans to other countries—the money that they have loaned in the United States, in Canada, the Australian Colonies, in Europe and everywhere. And look again at her immense mercantile navy, which whitens with its sails every sea of the world; it goes into every port, and carries back money from every country to England. Then look at her merchants, who visit every country, make fortunes, and take them back to their native land; and when we add all these results together, we find that the balance of trade is really in favor of England; and that is the reason why England is so rich, and becomes richer every day. But what do we draw from the West Indies otherwise than by the sale of exports there? I do not think that we obtain anything. And what do we draw from Brazil? I do not think anything. Do we receive money from that country? No. So the question which presents itself is a very important one; and I believe that this House and the Government should investigate it, and try to discover the best means of changing this state of things, and make the balance of trade in our favor instead of against us. Now, I brought this matter before the House, because I believe that there is a remedy; but the remedy suggested is not of to-day. It does not come from me. The Government which was at the head of affairs in Canada in 1865, tried to apply a remedy and change this order of things. That Government united with the Governments of the other colonies to send a delegation to Brazil and the West Indies, charged with the mission of studying, on the premises, the best means of extending our trade relations and to render our trade more prosperous than it was then—and still is. Few in or out of this House will, perhaps, remember that fact, because although the delegation, composed of very honorable and clever gentlemen, went to and was well received in those countries, and was fully empowered by the British Government to go on their mission, still it produced no result. As you are aware, the delegation was composed of Messrs. Wm. McDougall, Chairman, Thomas Ryan, W. Duncombe, A. M. Delisle, Jas. McDonald, Isaac Levesconte and W. H. Pope. The four first gentlemen were from Canada, two others from Nova Scotia, and one from Prince Edward Island and one from New Brunswick. Now, these gentlemen had a conference, and they resolved:

“That, in the opinion of this council, it would be highly desirable that representations should be made to Her Majesty's Imperial Government to request that steps be taken to enable the Governments of the Provinces to open communications with the West India Islands, Spain and her Colonies, and New Mexico, for the purpose of ascertaining in what manner the traffic of the Provinces with these countries could be extended and placed on a more advantageous footing.”

These resolutions were approved by Her Majesty's Secretary for the Colonies. On the 28th of October, Sir Edward Cardwell wrote as follows:—

“The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Officer Administering the Government of Canada.

“Canada, No. 151.

“(Copy)

“DOWNING STREET, 28th October, 1865.

“SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Viscount Monck's despatch of the 22nd September, No. 157, forwarding copies of two approved minutes of the Executive Council of Canada, suggesting that measures should be taken with a view to the extension of the commerce of Canada in the British and Spanish West Indies, in Mexico, Brazil and other places. I request you will assure the Provincial Government that Her Majesty's Government cordially approve the suggestion they have made, and will support it by all the means in their power.

“The scheme is, of course, not applicable to Canada alone, but to the British North American Colonies collectively.

“On that understanding I shall request the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to recommend the object in view at the requisite Foreign Courts, and to introduce to the British Ministers abroad those gentlemen who shall be selected for the mission.”