

The only taxes he is called upon to pay he has the opportunity of voting for or against; his opinion, in other words, is taken as to whether the tax is just or necessary. Such taxes are for school purposes, road-making and bridge-building in the township in which he lives, and by which he benefits to a degree often one hundred-fold greater than the amount of money or labour he is required to contribute.

The commerce of a producing country like Canada, drawing its wealth from its agriculture, forests, mines, and seas, is fairly represented by statistical tables of exports and imports. The following tables, compiled from official returns, will show the direction in which the industry of the province exerts itself. The exports for 1858 and 1859 are thus classified:—

	1858. Currency.	1859. Currency.
Agricultural Products	£1,976,100	1,834,949
Produce of the Forest	2,361,932	2,415,000
Animals and their Products	615,691	947,376
Manufactures	81,344	121,808
Produce of the Sea	179,574	204,356
Produce of the Mine	78,706	117,128
Other Articles.....	28,134	27,683
	£5,321,481	5,669,290
Estimated short returns from Inland Ports.....	£360,761	416,151
In addition to these items, we have the value of Ships built at Quebec, amounting to	185,910	105,391
Giving a Grand Total of Exports of	£5,868,152	6,190,832

The tonnage employed in the transatlantic commerce of Canada, and with the sister provinces, amounted, in 1855, to 419,553 tons, and in 1859 to 641,652 inwards; and in 1855 to 451,241 tons, and in 1859 to 640,561 tons outwards.

The following statement shows the number and tonnage of Canadian and American vessels, distinguishing steamers from sailing craft, employed in the carrying trade, and passing through the canals of the province:—

	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Canadian Sail.....	633	66,903	751	74,715
Canadian Steam.....	88	7,812		
American Sail	553	98,753	588	106,844
American Steam	35	8,091		
Total.....			1,339	181,559

The following is a comparative statistical view of the commerce of Canada, exhibiting the value of exports to, and imports from, Great Britain, her colonies, and foreign countries, during the years 1858 and 1859:—