

Canadian Post - War Exports

The soundness of Canada's export business shown by the results of trading since the war—Heavy increases in exports of pulp and paper products, wheat, lumber, bacon and hams.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

The trade returns for the fiscal year that ended on March 31st demonstrate the inherent soundness of Canada's external trade. They reveal remarkable recuperative powers and disclose how well this trade has stood the test of post-war conditions. They impart also confidence for the future.

The loss during 1918-19, of \$318,400,000 worth of exports, as compared with the high water mark of the preceding year, had induced many persons to expect a further decline; but a stronger demand and higher prices for natural products and certain manufactured goods not only arrested the Dominion Government, but increased the value of exports for the year by \$17,894,000. This gain was recorded in spite of the loss of \$237,000,000 in shipments of munitions alone and of over \$40,000,000 in other exports. So Canada's export trade of the last few years has not been of so artificial or temporary, a nature as many had thought.

It may be said, "True, the showing last year was good; but it must be remembered that large credits to Roumania, Greece and Belgium bolstered up exports." These helped; but they were responsible for not more than 25 per cent of the recovery made during the year, the amount of these credits being approximately \$70,000,000. On the other hand it must be remembered that if Canada had had an average wheat crop, and there had been available for export the quantity of wheat that went out during 1917-18, the value of last year's exports would have exceeded those of 1918-19 by \$225,000,000.

The value of the total external trade for the year was \$2,351,174,778, being the second largest in the history of the Dominion, \$162,703,691 larger than in the preceding year, and only \$198,505,693 below the record-breaking period 1917-18, when the exports of munitions alone amounted to nearly \$390,000,000. The excess of exports over imports was \$222,142,540. If munitions were eliminated from the 1917-18 returns, as they almost were from those of 1919-20 the value of exports for the latter year would exceed that of the best year in Canadian trade by nearly \$90,000,000.

Wheat valued at \$185,044,806 was the principal item of export, the quantity being 77,979,000 bushels. Unmanufactured wood, with \$105,336,000 was second; flour, \$94,262,000, third; then followed bacon and hams \$70,123,000; paper, \$63,252,000; iron and steel \$62,000,000; live cattle \$50,026,000; wood pulp \$41,383,000; fish \$40,697,000; cheese \$36,000,000; textiles \$22,000,000. The principal increase in exports over 1918-19 were as follows: wheat \$90,000,000; lumber, etc. \$35,000,000; bacons and hams \$30,000,000; grains other than wheat and oats \$17,000,000; live animals \$15,000,000; paper \$14,000,000; automobiles and parts \$9,000,000; hides and skins \$12,000,000.

Possibly the most notable feature of the year's trade was the new direction taken by the greater part of exports. The United States is now Canada's best customer, the value of the total exports to that country having been \$510,128,369, as compared with \$495,961,867 to the United Kingdom. The latter took \$25,000,000 more of Canadian produce than did the Republic; but re-exports amounting to \$37,100,000 gave the latter the lead in total purchases. The United States increased her sales to this country by \$55,000,000; the United Kingdom by \$53,000,000, the latter being equal to a gain of 73 per cent.

On the figures of the last fiscal year the external trade of the Dominion is divided as follows: with the United States 55.4 per cent, with the United Kingdom 26.5 per cent, with other countries 18.1 per cent.

Among the exports, of special note is the increase in the value of pulp and paper products, which went from \$83,873,566 in 1918-19 to \$104,636,901, the latter being made up as follows: newsprint \$53,203,792, other paper \$10,049,627, wood pulp \$41,383,482. The rapid growth in the exports of this branch of industry during the last ten years may be seen in the following tables:

	Total Imports.		
	1910-11	1914-15	1919-20
Newsprint	\$3,092,437	\$14,091,662	\$53,203,792
Other paper	3,912,196	1,418,320	10,049,627
Wood pulp	5,715,532	9,266,161	41,383,482
	\$12,720,165	\$24,776,143	\$104,636,901

	Exports to United States.		
	1910-11	1914-15	1919-20
Newsprint	\$1,961,358	\$12,126,982	\$46,809,178
Other paper	2,040,864	752,222	3,558,161
Wood pulp	5,094,589	7,443,814	31,316,753
	\$9,096,811	\$20,323,018	\$81,684,092

The value of Canada's total trade with the British Empire was \$743,786,487, the total exports being \$569,615,676, and the imports \$174,170,811. All but \$6,810,000 of the exports represented domestic produce. Eighty-three per cent of this trade was with the United Kingdom, the value of whose imports from Canada being nearly five times that of the value of Canada's imports from her. To all portions of the Empire outside of the United Kingdom the exports were \$73,653,809, the imports therefrom being about \$48,000,000. With the British West Indies, British Guiana, British Honduras and Bermuda the total trade was approximately \$34,000,000; with the British possessions in the Antipodes \$24,300,000, with the British East Indies \$23,000,000, Newfoundland, \$19,080,000, and British Africa approximately \$11,000,000. Aside from the United Kingdom, Newfoundland is the best customer within the Empire, having bought \$26,940,000 worth of commodities last year, compared with \$15,200,000 for the whole of the other British possessions in this hemisphere and \$11,538,000 for Australia.

Canada's second best trade group is Europe, which includes the United Kingdom, the total trade being valued at \$825,919,714, of which \$367,540,289 represent exports and \$152,379,435 imports. Leaving the Mother Country out of account, the exports to all other states in Europe were valued at but \$176,299,442. Of the total imports, no less than \$126,269,274 were from the United Kingdom, which means that all other countries on the Continent only sold the Dominion \$26,110,000 worth of commodities. These figures are a good indication of Europe's economic exhaustion and low productive capacity. Of the total exports from the continent of Europe nearly one-third came from Switzerland alone.

Between the second and third group in order of importance, the West Indies, there is a big drop.

This includes not only the British possessions, but also those of France, Holland, the United States, and all other Islands. The value of the total trade with these was \$60,702,561, the imports being \$40,530,346 and the exports \$20,172,216. Cuba was the best customer, taking commodities to the value of \$6,859,000, but this was only equal to about 30 per cent of what she sold to this country. The high value of these imports, \$17,500,000, was due to the high price of sugar. The total trade with the Dominican Republic was \$10,844,000, of which all but \$170,000 was in the form of sugar imports. Next to Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago, with purchases of \$3,786,000, were Canada's best customers, followed closely by Jamaica. More trade is done with Cuba than with the whole of the British West Indies. Of the total imports of \$40,530,000, from the whole of the group, Cuba and the Dominican Republic supplied seven-tenths. The latter island, which sold the Dominion \$10,675,287 of commodities, bought only \$169,136 worth last year. Cuba bought within \$200,000 worth as much as Trinidad, Tobago and Jamaica combined.

The Asiatic group which includes all countries on that continent with which Canada trades, is next with a total trade of \$59,631,507, the imports being \$34,525,425 and the exports \$24,879,777. Japan is by far the most important country on this continent, the total trade with her being \$21,500,000, \$13,635,000 being in the form of imports. Exports from that country fell off to the extent of \$5,000,000 during the year. British India is next with a total trade of \$12,608,000, of which \$7,788,000 is in imports. China follows with a total of \$7,907,000, but in her case the exports are valued at \$6,705,760, and the imports at only \$1,201,579. The total trade with the Strait Settlements was \$7,009,000, the imports being \$5,265,000.

Trade with all South American countries, including British possessions on that continent, was \$33,680,000, compared with \$29,299,000 in 1918-19. The chief gain was in the value of imports which were nearly \$5,500,000 in excess of those for the preceding year, due to the higher value of sugar; the gain on exports was but \$1,250,000. In point of total trade British Guiana leads with \$10,535,000; the Argentina Republic being second with \$9,518,000, Peru, third and Brazil fourth. The Argentine is by far the best customer taking nearly twice the value of commodities that went to British Guiana, the second best.

Trade with the Oceanic group, in which is included not only Australia, New Zealand, and the South Sea Islands generally, but also the Philippines and Hawaii, fell away considerably during the year, its total value being \$25,219,000. The decline was most notable in the case of Australia and New Zealand, being equal to 25 per cent. The total trade with Australia, which was \$19,136,000 in 1918-19, was but \$12,908,000 in 1919-20, as for New Zealand the figures were \$14,209,000 and \$10,504,000 respectively. Exports to New Zealand showed a gain of about \$1,600,000; while those to Australia fell off to the extent of \$2,634,000. Imports from Australia were only 30 per cent of what they were in 1918-19, while those from New Zealand were equal to about 93 per cent of the preceding year's figures.

The value of the total trade with all parts of Africa was \$11,590,000. Of this, \$9,347,189 was with British South Africa, a decline of \$3,950,000 during the course of the year, \$3,300,000 representing the falling off in exports. On the other hand trade with British West Africa increased from \$181,272 to \$1,243,485, the exports having gone from \$173,515 in 1918-19 to \$1,068,557. Other states on the Dark Continent do not, between them do more than \$1,000,000 worth of trade with Canada.

The total trade with Central America was \$1,320,324, imports being \$725,567 and exports \$594,457.