

THE COURSE OF FOREIGN TRADE THIS FISCAL YEAR.

The directions in which our foreign trade is developing or shrinking, and the extent of the changes made, are matters of vital importance to Canada. Our imports and exports are being watched with special interest in view of there being a general desire to enlarge our trade with the Mother country. The following are the articles of merchandise imported into Great Britain from Canada, which were larger in the first quarter of 1899 than in 1898 and 1897:

Articles.	1899.	1898.	1897.
	\$	\$	\$
Wheat.....	3,798,082	2,171,207	2,832,044
Wheat and Flour....	3,453,389	2,039,895	1,328,620
Other grains.....	2,934,176	4,109,588	2,438,551
Total grains.....	\$10,185,647	\$8,320,690	\$6,599,215
Provisions.....	13,269,673	11,876,660	11,324,113
Wood pulp.....	261,635	265,651	147,580
Sheep.....	261,622	127,915	241,883
Woolen tissues.....	595,928	679,970	451,934
Carpets.....	261,885	242,685	166,736
Iron and Steel Goods..	1,571,980	690,293	795,977

The returns of the United States have not been published in full up to close of the first quarter of the year beginning 1st July last.

But, from the data available, we find a large increase in agricultural implements, also in miscellaneous textile goods, in builders' hardware, boots and shoes, with very heavy decrease in all manner of agricultural products exported from the United States to Canada. From the 1st January to 1st September this year, the exports of the States to Canada were \$3,252,000 less than in same period last year, and there seems evidence enough to justify the anticipation that the course of Canadian trade is setting in more and more towards and from Great Britain.

The following table has been compiled from Custom House returns for quarter ending 30th September last, giving in two sections, first, a schedule of such articles as were imported in excess of same quarter 1898, and, second, a list of those articles which were imported in a less volume this year than last in that period. We have also worked out the percentage of duties paid on each class of goods in both years.

Imports and ratio of duties, 1st quarter, 1898 and 1899.

Articles in which increases occurred, 1899.	Total Imp. 1st. Qr. 1899.	Total Imp. 1st. Qr. 1898.	Ratio of duties 1898.	Ratio of duties 1899.
	\$	\$	p.c.	p.c.
Cars, &c.....	33,878	92,359	29.6	30.0
Fruits.....	406,471	520,045	25.8	25.4
Gutta percha.....	113,011	118,427	27.4	27.8
Hats and Caps.....	370,925	427,672	26.2	26.5
Hardware.....	982,424	983,019	24.0	24.7
Iron and Steel Goods.....	3,263,198	4,329,801	22.5	19.7
Jewellery, &c.....	265,782	280,414	25.6	27.2
Leather Goods.....	392,035	440,614	19.2	19.9
Oils and Paints.....	559,470	562,436	26.8	27.6
Papers.....	324,523	326,299	28.6	28.9
Provisions.....	372,007	529,153	29.8	24.8
Soap, Spices, &c.....	139,435	160,115	20.6	20.6
Liquors.....	394,052	468,491	162.2	160.7
Sugar.....	1,495,992	2,491,278	30.5	28.3
Tobacco.....	41,563	97,826	132.3	124.6

Wool Clothing....	472,614	496,210	29.4	32.3
" Yarns.....	101,580	110,553	20.0	20.7
Wooden Goods....	175,433	209,037	22.1	22.4
Other Goods.....	3,645,352	4,248,911	23.4	24.3
Total.....	13,549,745	16,892,680		

Articles in which decreases occurred				
Breadstuffs.....	357,980	349,322	29.2	27.9
Bicycles, &c.....	82,853	49,407	29.9	30.0
Coal, &c.....	1,223,847	1,027,609	30.3	27.3
Cottons.....	1,516,257	1,408,366	25.6	26.3
Earthenware.....	329,899	267,780	23.9	26.2
Fancy Goods.....	647,804	559,044	28.0	30.8
Glass.....	429,563	410,085	22.4	24.1
Musical Inst's.....	93,761	77,788	26.0	27.9
Drugs.....	448,642	404,108	21.9	22.8
Books, &c.....	298,204	289,614	16.6	16.8
Silk.....	1,351,586	1,240,955	26.3	30.0
Car etc's.....	260,423	220,235	26.8	26.5
Cloths.....	1,050,030	909,675	26.8	26.8
Dress Woollens.....	1,442,224	1,149,936	27.0	29.6
Knitted Goods.....	224,180	154,347	28.8	28.6
Flax.....	521,365	470,163	20.7	20.5
Shawls.....	40,866	35,234	22.9	25.5
Other Woollens.....	281,316	159,947	25.8	25.8
Other Goods.....	418,002	399,729	16.8	16.0

Totals datable.....	24,548,547	26,476,054	27.6	27.8
Coin & Bullion.....	3,110,151	4,019,351		
Free Goods.....	16,531,472	17,224,428		
Total Imports.....	44,190,170	47,718,833	15.35	15.45

The average duty on the dutiable goods in the 1st quarter of 1898 was 27.60, and in some term this year 27.80, and the average duty on the total imports, including those admitted free, was, in 1898, 15.35, and this year 15.45. For the entire period of ten years from 1887 to 1897, the average rate of duty on dutiable goods was 30.73, and the average rate on all the imports, including free goods, was 19.56. It seems evident, therefore, that the present tariff, with its concession of 25 per cent. in favour of British imports, has caused the average rate of duty paid on imports to be reduced. The manufacturers and merchants of the old country have a reputation for dilatoriness in realizing the value of new opportunities for extending trade. Enquiries continue to be made respecting the real nature of our preferential tariff in favor of British goods, which shows that its real value to British exporters is not yet fully understood. We may then reasonably expect a steady enlargement of Great Britain's exports to this country as the advantages offered by Canada in her preferential tariff became more universally known in the old land. The following is a classified list of the exports of Canada for 1st quarter of 1898 and 1899.

Nature of Exports.	Home products. 1899.	Foreign products. 1899.	Home products. 1898.	Foreign products. 1898.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mineral.....	3,645,065	68,071	2,980,352	62,794
Fishery.....	2,512,298	38,594	2,384,499	1,759
Forest.....	12,947,496	229,662	12,766,863	57,848
Agricultural.....	21,801,002	5,646,546	16,144,163	5,757,436
Manufactures.....	3,089,031	349,108	2,649,215	287,310
Totals.....	43,994,892	6,331,981	36,925,092	6,167,147
Grand total, 1899 including Coin and bullion {	\$50,928,464		\$43,465,085	

Out of this gross increase of \$7,463,379, \$5,491,631 was in animals and their produce; \$669,990 in minerals; \$352,447 in lumber; \$434,244 in manufactures;