

Canadian cheese continues to hold a good position in the English market, but butter is finding a strong and gaining competition from our sister colonies in Australasia. The live stock business continues to be one of the chief features of the export business, and the debated question of requisite provision on ship-board for that trade has led to such inspection by Government as will tend to retain for Montreal its high character as a port of shipment for live stock. The export of lumber has decreased considerably, owing chiefly to the almost entire cessation of the demand from South America.

Regarding Montreal the Custom House returns given below show a marked increase of the export trade, as compared with 1890, the total figures exceeding the highest of any former years by \$6,826,513. The imports remain almost unchanged, but the amount of duty collected thereon shows a decrease of nearly two million dollars, which is chiefly attributable to the placing of raw sugar upon the free list. The number of sea-going vessels arrived in this port during last year was a little less than in 1890, but the aggregate of their tonnage was larger, pointing to the increased size of the vessels now coming here.

YEARS.	Sea-going Vessels arrived in Port.	Total Tonnage.	Value of Merchandise Exported.	Value of Merchandise Imported.	Customs Duties Collected.
			\$	\$	\$ c.
1891	725	938,657	39,464,783	44,408,670	7,297,228.51
1890	746	930,332	32,027,176	44,102,786	9,201,426.86
1889	695	823,165	32,638,270	47,191,888	9,321,981.91
1888	655	782,473	24,049,638	39,866,527	8,778,291.32
1887	767	870,773	29,391,798	43,100,183	8,745,526.11
1886	703	809,699	28,078,330	40,469,942	8,362,618.94
1885	629	683,854	25,274,898	37,413,250	6,672,971.26
1884	626	649,374	27,145,427	42,366,793	6,772,675.68
1883	660	664,263	27,277,159	43,718,549	7,698,796.12
1882	648	554,692	26,334,312	49,749,461	8,395,654.07
1881	569	931,929	26,561,188	43,546,821	7,672,266.17
1880	710	628,271	30,224,904	37,102,869	5,231,783.80
1850	211	46,156	1,744,772	7,174,180	1,009,256.80

HARBOUR IMPROVEMENT.

The Committee on Harbour Improvement, appointed in February, 1890, was re-appointed by your Council, it being as follows:—Messrs. H. A. Budden, Chairman; Wm. Wainwright, Thos. G. Shaughnessy, Robert Reford, D. A. Watt, and R. M. Esdaile.