

TOBACCO.

The annexed statement collated from the Customs' Returns, shows a steady decrease in the importation of Manufactured Tobacco since 1859,—and an immense increase in the importation of Leaf or unmanufactured Tobacco, since 1861 :—

DESCRIPTION.	1863		1862		1861		1860		1859	
	Q'tantity	Value	Q'tantity	Value	Q'tantity	Value	Q'tantity	Value	Q'tantity	Value
	lbs.	\$	lbs.	\$	lbs.	\$	lbs.	\$	lbs.	\$
Tobacco, unmanuf'd	5,617,215	839,054	4,464,802	592,445	1,043,787	84,125	1,032,886	54,832	1,100,819	67,245
“ manuf'd	42,934	10,711	318,240	60,290	709,970	79,694	1,036,117	105,961	1,077,279	159,508
Cigars	65,523	33,157	45,485	27,161	38,318	14,666				
Snuff	1,894	490	1,524	322	1,024	235				

The only exportation of Tobacco from Montreal in 1860, consisted of 7,500 lbs.—believed to have been Canadian unmanufactured. It is difficult at present, to state with precision the quantities of manufactured Tobacco shipped from this city to places out of the Province ; the aggregate export last year, as recorded at the Custom-House, was 1,012,380 lbs., valued at \$303,698 ;—the shipments to Great Britain were valued at \$124,270 ; to British North American Provinces, \$16,884 ; to the United States \$162,544,—this being probably the value of the quantities passing outward *via* Rouse's Point, to Burlington and Whitehall.

The stock of manufactured Tobacco on hand, on 31st December last, was estimated to be about 15,000 boxes, and 500 hhds. of unmanufactured, imported from the United States. The quantity manufactured in Montreal during 1863, has been variously estimated at from 25,000 to 30,000 boxes,—the productive capacity of the Tobacco Factories in the City being only about half employed. It is believed that, in full operation, these establishments are adequate to amply supply the entire consumptive demand of this Province,—estimated at about 100 boxes per diem, or nearly 40,000 boxes a year.

Large profits are understood to have been realised in the manufacture of Tobacco, in 1862 ; but there was a considerable decline in price at the close of that year. In January and February of 1863, several thousand boxes were placed in this market by manufacturers, for speculative and trade demand, at prices varying from 30c. @ 40c. per lb.,—large lots changing hands at the lower rate. By the beginning of March stocks had accumulated again, the inquiry had materially slackened, and, as the prospect of an excise duty being imposed disappeared, prices gradually fell until September,—the rates of that month as compared with January showing a decline of 15c. per lb.,—sales having been made at 18c. @ 25c. for ordinary to good tens.

In December last the proposal of the United States' Government to levy duties both on Leaf and Manufactured Tobacco, caused a good deal of excitement in the Montreal market, and all stocks offering at previous low prices were taken up,—the year closing with an active market at an advance of 5c. per lb.

The Manufacturers of Tobacco here have every facility for competing successfully with those of the United States, and they look forward to the time when they shall supply a portion of the European demand.