

BRITISH VS. AMERICAN TRADE WITH CANADA.

The Dominion Department of Trade and Commerce has compiled from the British Board of Trade returns a statement showing the export of goods from the United Kingdom to the Dominion of Canada for the month of October. Taking the four months ended October 31, 1898, during which the full preference of twenty-five per cent. has been in force, the importations of British goods appear to have slightly increased on the bulk of the list, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1896 and 1897. For instance, exports to Canada of spirits have increased from \$193,103 and \$230,951 for the four months of 1896 and 1897 respectively to \$265,076 in 1898. Wool from \$7,659 and \$92,388 has fallen to \$47,225. Grey cotton remains at about \$13,000; bleached increased from \$167,267 and \$136,183 to \$184,966; printed from \$167,267 and \$136,183 to \$184,966; dyed cottons from \$347,964 and \$381,463 to \$520,786; linen manufactures from \$200,632 and \$201,751 to \$286,441, worsted goods from \$919,503 and \$1,052,325 to \$1,094,658, carpets from \$165,285 and \$190,583 to \$293,284.

In the exportation of iron and steel and manufactures thereof there has, however, been a falling off rather than an increase, notwithstanding the operation of the full preference of twenty-five per cent., while from the United States our imports have noticeably increased. For instance, we received from Britain during the first four months of the past fiscal year but \$17,617 worth, and during the corresponding period of the present year \$18,014, as against \$79,509 during the four months of 1896. During the latter period also, railroad iron and steel from the United Kingdom exported to Canada was valued at \$605,577, during the four months of 1897 the export was \$124,061, and during the four months ending October 31st only \$50,306.

These and similar decreases more than offset the general tendency to increased export in the lines of goods above mentioned.

The statement is made unofficially in explanation of this, showing that the disposition to avail of the benefits of the preferential cut is offset by a tendency on the part of Canadian importers to await the outcome of the present reciprocity negotiations at Washington before transferring orders from the United States to British houses. As for the failure of the preferential tariff to encourage the importation of British as against United States iron and steel, it is candidly enough admitted that even with the twenty-five per cent. advantage, it would be impossible for British manufacturers to compete with the Americans in Canadian markets.

MINING MACHINERY IN SIBERIA.

The great Siberian Railway being now completed as far as Irkutsk, on the Baikal Sea, and thus means of communication having greatly improved, the importation of mining and other industrial machinery will no doubt rapidly increase. Numerous coal, iron and gold deposits have been discovered in the construction of this great railway, and the Russian government does all in its power to develop the rich resources of this vast territory. Only recently the Minister of Finances decided that all mining machinery and appliances necessary in the working of the gold deposits should enter Siberia duty free. Three leading Siberian gold mining companies, whose headquarters are at St. Petersburg, have already ordered American machinery, and our manufacturers would do well to pay their fullest attention to this market. Only a few weeks ago a new Russian mining company was formed at Irkutsk, on the Baikal Sea, with a capital of 1,000,000 rubles.

A NEW AUSTRALIAN LINE.

A new move has just been taken in the Australian steamship war by the American and Australian Steamship Line, of which Norton & Son, New York, are the general agents, in the establishment of a sailing vessel service to supplement their steamer line. The first sailing will be by the British iron bark, Doon, 859 tons register, from New York for Syd-

ney, N.S.W., about January 15th. Another vessel will leave for Melbourne about the same time.

The establishment of this new service indicates that the war is becoming more bitter. It is understood that its object is to provide for cheap freight, for the delivery of which there is no urgent need of speed. At present there are four sailing vessel lines from New York to Australia and New Zealand. It was the organization of the American and Australian Line in competition with these which brought on the war. The "regular" lines at once organized an independent steamer service known as the United States and Australian Steamship Line. Since then the competition has been exceedingly severe, and rates have declined more than fifty per cent.

TO PUSH GERMAN TRADE.

The establishment of a German Commercial Museum at Berlin is projected. The Minister of Commerce and the Secretary of State at the Imperial Office have been requested by the President of the Industrial Union to found such a museum in order to push and support German export trade in its victorious career in every direction. As designed, the museum is to obtain productions from foreign States, besides productions of German art and German industry which are already being exported.

According to the President's report, the year 1897 was generally favorable for German export trade, and the Frankfurt Export Pattern Stores had plenty of visitors. It was again possible to obtain good results for a large number of the exhibitors, and to introduce new customers to them. A new German catalogue has been issued, large numbers of which were sent out. These catalogues are greatly in demand as books of reference for finding the addresses of German manufacturers. In consequence of the participation of several hundred first-class manufacturers in all parts of Germany the stores are well fitted out, and the President is also continuously endeavoring to augment the copiousness of the store, and to cause orders to be given to the manufacturers by direct offers to European export firms, etc.

CANADIAN HAY.

Replying to enquiries from the Maritime Provinces relative to the market in Great Britain for hay, the Canadian High Commissioner's office in London has sent reports to the Department of Trade and Commerce which indicate that in Liverpool at present there is a large quantity of Canadian hay, meeting with a slow sale at about \$12.15 per ton of 2,240 pounds. This is said to be owing to the abundant hay crop in England. It is anticipated that the demand will increase as the season advances. The present price in Glasgow is given by a leading firm at \$14.60, but they express "doubts as to whether hay grown in the Maritime Provinces would be of equal quality with that grown in the West."

REDUCED POSTAL RATES.

The reduced postal rates to come into effect on Christmas Day will apply to letters passing between Canada and the United Kingdom, British India, Newfoundland, and the following African protectorates:—British East Africa, Uganda, Zanzibar, British Central Africa, the Niger coast protectorate and the Niger Co.'s territory. The postage on these letters will be reduced from five cents to two cents per half ounce.

A FLOURISHING ASSOCIATION.

American Trade publishes a list of recent additions to the membership of the National Association of Manufacturers, which includes the names of 110 manufacturing concerns who do business in the following States:—Mississippi, Pennsylvania, New York, Minnesota, Michigan, Massachusetts, Ohio, Delaware, Illinois, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Maryland, and North Carolina. The membership of this Association runs up into the thousands, although it has not yet celebrated the fourth anniversary of its organization. We are informed that every state and territory of the Union is represented in its membership.