

Canada amounted to \$215,070,642, as compared with \$208,481,201 in the same period of the previous year, being an increase of \$11,640,441. In imports the increase reaches \$16,592,005. Exports show a decline of \$4,951,564. The customs collections for the same period amounted to \$16,426,127, as compared with \$14,150,115 in 1898, being an increase of \$2,277,013.

The increased imports are not to be regarded as a ground for dissatisfaction on the part of Canadians, as they have been caused mainly by more healthy and vigorous consumptive demand all over the Dominion. In some instances it may be true that foreign products have displaced home manufactures, but the great bulk of the increase of \$16,500,000 in the value of imports represents greater quantities and a better quality of dry goods; hardware, groceries and other commodities used in Canada. The imports for the period of eight months in 1898 and 1899 were as follows:

	1898.	1899.
Dutiable.....	\$48,042,786	\$56,690,421
Free	32,779,027	39,651,910
Coin and bullion	2,963,224	4,035,411
Totals.....	\$83,785,737	\$100,377,742
	1898.	1899.
Duty collected	\$14,150,115	\$16,427,128

The statistics of the export trade are not satisfactory. A decrease of almost five million dollars in eight months' trading can scarcely be viewed with pleasure unless we ascribe the cause of the lack of exportation to the stronger relative demand at home than abroad. This has been true in some lines of produce. The decline in exports has been distributed pretty evenly between minerals, the fisheries and agricultural products. The lumbermen, who are commonly supposed to be suffering from lack of markets, have about held their own in the foreign markets. It is a little disappointing that the manufacturers have apparently not increased their exports. The figures showing the export trade are as follows:

	1898.	1899.
Produce of the mines	\$10,633,180	\$9,177,105
Produce of fisheries.....	8,077,537	7,189,477
Produce of forest.....	20,599,540	20,292,289
Animals and their produce..	36,894,248	36,986,853
Agricultural produce	32,414,373	29,562,757
Manufactures	7,472,285	7,726,321
Coin and bullion	3,321,721	3,387,688
Miscellaneous	231,580	370,410
Total.....	\$119,644,464	\$114,692,900

Of the exports in 1899, \$96,810,364 was the value of the produce of Canada, and \$14,494,948 the value of exports not the produce of Canada. In the 1898 exports \$105,938,599 were the produce of Canada and \$10,384,144 not the produce of Canada.

CANADIAN COMMERCE IN 1898.

The trade returns of the Dominion for the fiscal year ended with June, 1898, are at hand. They show the aggregate foreign trade of the country in that period to have reached the large sum of \$294,850,689, consisting of \$164,152,683 exports and \$130,698,006 imports. These figures are each in excess of the corresponding figures for the preceding year, which were respectively \$249,244,274; \$137,950,253 and \$111,294,021, showing that the increase of exports was in larger ratio than that of imports. Indeed we believe Canadian trade last year exceeded any previous twelve months.

The countries with which we traded most largely last year were as usual the United Kingdom and the United States. With the mother country we did business amounting to \$187,499,785, or 46.63 per cent. of the whole, while

that with the United States amounted to \$124,410,926, equal to 42.19 per cent., leaving the sum of \$82,940,028 as the aggregate of our business with all other nations in the twelve months. The country next in the list of our trade is Germany, from whom we bought \$5,584,014 worth of goods and to whom we shipped \$1,837,448 worth, making an aggregate of say \$7,421,462. And then comes France, our total trade with which was \$5,000,618, consisting of imports \$3,957,375 and exports \$1,025,262. With the West Indies we did nearly four millions of business, viz., exports \$2,749,080 and imports \$1,080,266, but this was not what might have been expected. Newfoundland continues to be a considerable customer. With China and Japan our business is good, but mainly consists of imports.

A convenient way of showing how much we sell to and how much we buy from different countries will be to place them in a list with the amount of exports and imports opposite each.

COUNTRY.	EXPORTS TO.	IMPORTS FROM.
Great Britain	\$104,998,818	\$32,500,917
United States	45,705,336	78,705,590
West Indies	2,749,080	1,080,266
Newfoundland	2,167,860	464,324
Germany	1,837,448	5,584,014
Australia	1,630,714
South America	1,060,420	1,425,653
France	1,025,262	3,975,351
Belgium	973,944	1,230,110
China and Japan	511,919	2,317,971
Holland	376,489	374,047
Spain	89,675	488,787
Portugal	87,835	47,319
Italy	73,765	421,258
Switzerland	349,678
Other Countries	864,168	1,732,721
	\$164,152,683	\$130,698,006

A table of percentages will show that almost two-thirds of our exports go to the mother country and something over a quarter to the United States. That these proportions are nearly reversed in the matter of imports arises from the circumstance that so much of the raw material of our manufactures, such as cotton, hides, rubber, tobacco, etc., come from the States.

	PER CENT. EXPORTS.	PER CENT. IMPORTS.
Great Britain	63.96	24.86
United States	27.96	60.21
Germany	1.12	4.27
France62	3.05
West Indies	1.67	.82
China and Japan31	1.77
South America64	1.09
Other Countries	3.72	8.93
Total	100.00	100.00

THE COTTON GOODS MARKET.

Rather unusual attention has been attracted this week to the cotton markets. The makers of grey and bleached cottons have not been working harmoniously together and prices have been cut on staple goods. There is now however a disposition to mend matters and advance prices. The Merchant's Cotton Company has issued a circular advising the trade of a rise in values after the end of this month, and the movement is understood to be general. This, of course, does not apply to the colored cotton manufacturers. While not showing any phenomenal strength the raw cotton market shows a tendency to firmness. The weather conditions in the Southern States continue favorable and less talk is heard relative to the backward proportions for the crop. Acreage of the cotton plant is a topic of much interest, and the general impression appears to be