

THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

This journal has always made a special feature of presenting to its readers facts and figures in reference to the trade of foreign countries, and of pointing out particular instances which seemed to be well worth the attention of Canadians looking for export markets. Our reason for devoting so much attention to the foreign trade question is because the manufacturers of other countries are kept well informed as to the requirements of possible foreign customers by means of their Consular reports, but Canada having no Consular system, it has almost entirely devolved upon this journal to meet this want, as far as possible, by compiling and publishing such digests of information as would be of interest to our own manufacturers. Having recently devoted considerable space to the prospects of trade with Australia, China, Japan and the West Indies, we now present some much needed information concerning the Argentine Republic.

The Argentine Republic comprises the greater part of what was formerly the Spanish viceroyalty of Buenos Ayres. On the separation of that country from Spain the remainder of the viceroyalty seceded from the authority of the Government established at Buenos Ayres and formed the three important republics of Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay. The constitution of the Argentine Republic is modelled closely after that of the United States; the President is elected by the people and the President of the Senate elected by his fellow senators, becomes *ex officio* Vice-President. The most remarkable feature of the country is its vast plains which comprise nearly three-fourths of the whole territory, and which for the most part are covered with a rich alluvial soil from three to six feet in thickness, caused by the constant decaying of the luxuriant vegetation which grows upon it.

The total area of the republic is 1,619,500 sq. miles, and in 1882 the population was officially estimated to be 3,026,000. The principal cities are Buenos Ayres with a population of 300,000; Cordova, 49,600; Rosario, 42,000; Tucuman, 26,300; Mendora, 18,200; Corrientes, 15,500; and eight other towns having a population of over 10,000 each.

As it is almost an entirely agricultural country, as may be judged from the fact that its people own eighteen millions of horned cattle and one hundred and forty millions of sheep; nearly everything in the way of manufactures has to be imported, and as Canada should secure some modicum of this large trade we give a few statistical facts:

The total imports in 1883 were \$81,246,163, and the exports \$60,389,052; the latter being mostly of wool, hides and tallow. This trade was mainly with the following countries:—

	IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.
Great Britain.....	\$30,727,694	\$ 7,211,437
France.....	16,785,590	22,518,371
Belgium.....	7,249,787	14,879,945
Germany.....	8,868,930	6,813,713
United States.....	7,454,832	4,064,848
Uruguay.....	5,683,343	2,110,849
Spain.....	4,701,790	1,517,678
Italy.....	3,996,644	1,803,484

The American export trade with the Argentine Republic has steadily increased, and the following comparison of their share of this market as against Canada is interesting.

ANNUAL EXPORTS FROM UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

UNITED STATES.		CANADA.	
1881.....	4,268,110	1882.....	181,988
1882.....	5,094,764	1883.....	215,475
1883.....	4,935,054	1884.....	301,245
1884.....	7,454,832	1885.....	702,183

A noticeable feature of the above comparison is that whilst the exports from the United States are largely manufactured goods, the exports from Canada were, last year, as follows:— Products of the mine, \$432; of the fisheries, \$2,030; manufactures, \$38,951, and forest products, \$660,686. An idea of the principal manufactured goods that the republic requires may be learned from the following partial statement of the imports for 1884.

Woven goods.....	\$16,793,043
Lumber.....	4,863,956
Clothing.....	2,814,836
Iron and its manufactures.....	9,186,802
Metals and other manufactures.....	1,626,608
Miscellaneous manufactures.....	5,194,180

All of the above goes to show that there is a trade to be done, and the question is whether our manufacturers are going to make an effort to secure part of it. Of course, in Canada, we are at the disadvantage of having no direct lines of communication, whereas there are twelve regular lines of steamers plying between the Argentine Republic and European ports, but it should be remembered that it is simply a question of supply and demand, and where there is commerce there will always be tonnage at command. We have taken the trouble to secure a mass of information, which space forbids us to publish in this article, but should any manufacturer require additional particulars we will be glad to have him correspond with us.

THE AMERICAN-BRAZILIAN FLOUR TRADE.

We recently mentioned the fact that considerable interest was being felt among wheat growers and flour millers in the United States over the report that a company was being organized in England, with a capital of £500,000, to establish flouring mills in Rio Janeiro, Brazil. The United Kingdom is the greatest consumer of American wheat and wheat products, the exportations thither in 1885 being the equivalent of 6,807,538 barrels, valued at \$34,309,802, while the total exports from the United States in that year were the equivalent of 10,618,145 barrels, valued at \$52,146,336. But while the United Kingdom is such a large consumer of American flour, Brazil comes next in importance, and requires a larger quantity than any other country, possibly excepting British North America. If this English scheme is put into execution, and if it proves as successful as its promoters claim it will be, it will have a very disastrous effect on the American interest alluded to. If American flour thus becomes shut out from the Brazilian market and 674,230 barrels, valued at \$3,369,074, were sent there in 1885—the effect would be to depress the price of the article at home to an alarming extent; and the event would be most sensibly felt by Canadian wheat growers and millers. To this extent, therefore, is Canada interested in the matter. It is stated that a committee composed of members of the Boards of Trade of New York, Baltimore and Richmond, recently visited Washington to see Secretary of State Bayard.