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COMMERCE BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

WE have received a report of the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics at Washington, on the imports, exports, etc., of the United States for the three months ending June 30, 1891; appended to which is an abstract of the foreign commerce of that country for the year ending on that date. We select from this report a few items of interest relative to the commerce with Canada.

The imports of merchandise, including coin and bullion, into the United States from the Dominion of Canada during the year ending June 30, 1891, amounted to \$39,087,782, as compared with previous year \$39,042,977.

The imports in both years include household and personal effects of settlers and of citizens of the United States dying abroad, and articles, the growth, produce and manufacture of that country, returned. They also include various articles of Canadian produce merely passing through the United States for export to foreign countries. The quality of Canadian merchandise of all kinds actually taken for consumption was about

\$30,000,000. We have good reason for believing that the trade and navigation returns of Canada for 1890-91 will show that the Dominion purchased from the United States during that year, for consumption alone, considerably over \$50,000,000, or fully \$20,000,000 more than the purchases of the United States from Canada.

There was a falling off in the value of imports into the United States from Canada in 1890-91 in horses, barley, eggs, hay, and sawn lumber; and there was an increase in bituminous coal, fish, beans and peas and potatoes. These are the important items.

By far the most important item of the imports into the United States from Canada was sawn lumber—boards, planks, deals, etc. The report referred to shows that during last year the United States exported to foreign countries sawn lumber to the value of over \$2,000,000 more than it imported from all countries. Under such conditions it is clear, as many of the best authorities in that country admit, that the consumer there must pay the duty; and it may be very safely assumed that it was owing to the conviction of this truth that Congress treated Canadian lumber in a different spirit than was exhibited toward most of its other products under the McKinley Tariff. The same rule as to American consumers paying the duty applies to coal, fish and some other articles, applies just as truly as that Canadian consumers would pay the duty on raw cotton, tobacco, coal, Indian corn, pork, products, etc., imported from the United States.

The value of horses, sheep, cattle, eggs, barley, hay, beans, potatoes, etc., exported from Canada to the United States during last year was about \$12,000,000. There is no doubt that free trade in these articles would prove very advantageous to many Canadian farmers; but it may be said with equal certainty, that under free trade in Indian corn, cats, hog produce, field seeds, etc., prices in Canada would be greatly depreciated. Nor should it be overlooked that, under free trade in cattle, farmers will imperil, and perhaps lose altogether, the highly favored position they now occupy as to disposal of their cattle on arrival in Great Britain. The value of this privileged condition there is thought to be rather under than over estimated at one million dollars annually.

Free trade in raw products between Canada and the United States offers many advantages and disadvantages. On the whole, it is generally conceded, that the advantages would prove greater than the disadvantages. But the contention that the balance of advantage is so great as to demand heavy sacrifice on the part of Canada in order to obtain free trade, is perfectly absurd. Reasonable concessions might be granted, but the proposal that Canada should, by commercial union, deprive itself of the privilege of purchasing in other markets than the United States, is too ridiculous even for discussion. During the year 1889-90 Canada imported from the United States merchandise valued \$52,291,970, more than one half of which was raw material; and imported from Great Britain and other countries than the United States, merchandise valued at \$60,473,611, nearly all of which was manufactured goods. What can be said of a proposal which implies that, by adopting the United States tariff, we must preclude ourselves from the purchase of any portion of this \$60,000,000, which the United States manufacturers may turn out at their own price, and