

The total imports into Canada from various countries during the past three years were as follows:

	1896	1897	1898
United States	\$59,290,166	\$66,140,617	\$83,020,035
Total British Empire	35,577,217	31,512,409	34,425,195
Great Britain	33,001,297	29,328,576	32,408,551
Belgium	927,457	1,189,441	1,450,197
Germany	6,454,706	5,785,546	5,763,784
France	2,782,693	2,507,128	4,090,506
Japan	1,648,232	1,329,980	1,458,233
Total from all countries	112,785,180	114,542,415	135,932,209

During these same years the chief exports of foreign merchandise, or merchandise exported from Canada, but not produced therein, were as follows:

	1896	1897	1898
United States	\$1,960,740	\$2,216,735	\$2,092,712
Total British Empire	4,343,139	8,053,102	12,098,582
Great Britain	3,971,312	7,693,650	11,933,799
Germany	150,612	280,843	418,352
Belgium	2,703	123,289	803,655
Total from all countries	6,606,738	10,825,163	14,980,893

It thus appears that the exports of foreign products from Canada to all countries during 1898 amounted to less than \$15,000,000, or a little over one-sixth of the total Canadian imports from the United States alone, while in 1896 they amounted to \$6,600,000 or a little over one-tenth of the Canadian imports from the United States. Granting even that all the foreign products re-exported from Canada had their origin in the United States, it thus appears to be a very misleading, if not an entirely erroneous statement to call so comparatively small a percentage of the United States imports into Canada "a considerable portion."

In this connection it is interesting to note that during the past ten years the imports into Canada from the United States have increased from 45.86 per cent. to 59.24 per cent. of the total imports, for consumption only, while those from Great Britain have decreased from 38.73 per cent. to 24.78 per cent. During the same period the exports sent from Canada to Great Britain have increased from 45.27 per cent. to 67.78 per cent. of the total exports, and those to the United States have decreased from 45.73 per cent. to 23.53 per cent. of the total. The figures showing the share of Great Britain and the United States in Canadian trade for the past decade are as follows:

	Per cent. of total Canadian imports for consumption rec'd from Great Britain.	United States.	Per cent. of total Canadian exports sent to Great Britain.	United States.
1889	28.73	45.86	45.27	45.73
1890	38.75	46.89	52.91	38.47
1891	37.67	46.05	52.12	39.43
1892	35.66	44.90	59.65	31.09
1893	36.09	45.44	57.76	32.73
1894	33.96	46.52	60.96	27.31
1895	30.85	49.94	58.35	32.22
1896	31.15	50.80	59.02	32.23
1897	27.58	53.18	59.17	32.13
1898	24.78	59.24	67.78	23.53

If the imports from the United States for consumption were nearly 60 per cent. of the total imports of that class received in Canada during the year 1898, while in 1889 they were only 45.8 per cent. of such imports, there is still ground upon which to base a certain degree of satisfaction for American exporters.

That a "large proportion of the imports from the United States consists of articles which the United Kingdom does not produce," is quite true, as Mr. Fielding says in his report, and in this fact there is food for thought for those who have so persistently opposed any form of reciprocity with the Canadian provinces. To show with full force the direction which the movement has taken during the past three years, it seems best to take the figures for the eight months ending with February. As the Canadian statistics are not divided for this period, it is necessary to resort to British and United States figures, as is done in the Canadian monthly statistical publications. According to the United States Treasury statistics, the exports from the United States to British North

America during the eight months ending February, 1897—which period was before the first preferential of 12½ per cent., dating from April, 1897, was granted to British imports—amounted to \$42,925,382. During the corresponding period of 1897-98, while the first British preferential rate was in force, they increased to \$53,057,184; and during the same period of 1898-99,—during all but one month of which time British imports were favored by the 25 per cent. preferential, granted from August 1, 1898,—our exports to all parts of Canada amounted to \$60,324,368, an increase of over 40 per cent. in two years. The United States Treasury figures also show that \$5,871,000, or about one-third of this net increase, was in corn, wheat and wheat flour, much of the remaining increase being in provisions, lumber, seeds, and other agricultural and forest products. In manufactured products, and particularly those which are in competition with the British articles of similar kind, we have little ground for boasting. Unfortunately the classification is quite different in the statistics of the two countries, so that direct and satisfactory comparison is in many lines impossible, but an example is the single item of cotton cloth. United States exports to Canada in the eight months ending with February, 1897, were \$1,462,770, in 1898 they were \$462,659, and in 1899 they were \$582,364, being over \$400,000 less in the two eight-month periods in 1898 and 1899 combined than they were in the corresponding period of the year 1896-97 alone. During this time British piece goods imports have grown from \$679,403 to \$970,486.

The chief gains in exports from the United States to Canada from the corresponding eight-month periods from July to February, inclusive, of the three years in question are shown in the following table:

	1897	1898	1899
Agricultural implements	\$206,325	\$359,365	\$700,578
Books, maps, etc.	428,700	488,355	572,901
Corn	1,723,997	3,066,379	4,628,021
Wheat	2,542,266	3,886,138	4,920,214
Wheat flour	2,400,312	1,780,782	2,988,040
Carriages, cars, etc.	65,384	109,223	184,160
Builders' hardware	332,204	413,835	530,361
Steel rails	*	918,486	1,358,666
Boots and shoes	146,109	175,332	251,242
Oil cake and meal	5,528	8,622	43,807
Oil, cotton seed	42,005	69,041	71,233
Beef, canned	81,927	28,239	121,737
Beef, fresh	2,006	260	38,651
Bacon	362,792	722,032	533,299
Hams	185,142	283,470	458,547
Pork, fresh and pickled	454,864	560,324	755,715
Lard	173,096	129,844	362,432
Cheese	407,247	865,398	786,188
Seeds	285,838	258,212	1,189,913
Wood, unmanufactured	427,555	602,000	629,157
Lumber	421,266	641,906	844,914

*Not separately stated.

The figures for the chief imports received in Canada from Great Britain during the same periods are as follows:

	1897	1898	1899
Spirits	\$320,366	\$438,573	\$487,366
Cotton manufactures—			
Piece goods unbleached	25,501	25,935	50,036
Piece goods bleached	129,266	124,356	222,710
Piece goods printed	524,636	642,497	706,740
Mfrs. of dyed cotton yarn	639,756	771,108	900,142
Linen piece goods	389,536	463,651	579,408
Silks	82,065	87,608	134,068
Woolen fabrics	913,979	838,157	1,169,050
Worsted fabrics	1,838,860	2,253,613	2,147,861
Railroad iron	520,726	157,802	67,884
Tin plates and sheets	755,715	750,108	537,440
Steel, unwrought	238,830	209,773	132,929
Lead, pig	57,694	110,478	174,949
Earthenware, etc.	344,565	517,123	527,671

Of railroad rails it will be noticed that in the past two years there has been a large increase in the amount contributed by the United States, while the imports into Canada from Great Britain have been reduced to less than \$100,000;