

VICTORIA'S TRADE.

The following official figures in regard to the trade of the port of Victoria are of special interest. They cover the customs collections from the 1st of January, 1889, down to the end of April 1891:

	1889.	1890.
January.....	\$ 51,313 75	\$ 46,680 56
February.....	30,427 09	42,918 18
March.....	75,561 05	97,160 72
April.....	60,267 27	78,657 23
May.....	72,208 12	78,910 08
June.....	61,101 89	76,792 26
July.....	58,249 65	67,907 72
August.....	85,190 23	77,385 88
September.....	78,282 84	91,833 57
October.....	70,882 13	90,204 09
November.....	62,610 31	75,451 64
December.....	52,389 12	66,013 03

Total.....\$770,473 08 \$890,334 96
Increase for Year ending Dec. 31,
1890.....\$119,861 88

	1890.	1891.
January.....	\$ 46,680 56	\$ 59,750 27
February.....	42,918 18	63,000 42
March.....	97,160 72	93,418 91
April.....	78,657 23	103,166 81

Total.....\$265,416 69 \$319,086 41
Increase for first four months of '91.. 53,669 72

" for past sixteen months..... 173,481 60

The cogency of these figures is sufficient without there being need to further comment upon them. In this case the old saying forcibly applies, that figures speak more loudly than words.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE total value of exports from the port of Vancouver for the quarter ending March 31, 1891, was \$77,561. Of this amount \$4,767 worth was not the product of Canada.

THE report of the statistician of the U. S. department of agriculture since the last of April of last year, shows an increase of 100 per cent. for corn and 32 per cent. for oats in price. The elimination of the surplus corn and oats, through the under production of last year, insures good prices for those crops, while the shortage of wheat of the world for two years and the foreign prospect for growing promises the largest foreign demand for ten years at a remunerative price.

BRADSTREET'S reports general trade in Canada quiet. There is only a fair demand for dry goods from jobbers in Ontario. In the Province of Quebec trade is said to be dull without immediate prospect of marked improvement. Collections are slow. The Dominion reports 30 business failures this week against 31 last week and 16 this week last year. The total number from January 1st to date is 805 against 700 last year.

U. S. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FOSTER has directed the customs officers at New York to refuse entry of goods in the name of custom house brokers or others who are merely the consignees, unless they disclose upon entry the name of the ultimate consignee or purchaser, file a certified copy of the invoice by which settlement for the purchase of the merchandise is made, and disclose all the facts and circumstances necessary to satisfy him that the transaction is free from taint or fraud.

THE output of lumber in Washington, Oregon and California for the past year was much larger than that of any previous year. Washington produced 1,820,171,000 feet; Oregon, 829,283,000 feet; California, 864,916,000 feet; total output for the Pacific coast states, 3,522,370,000 feet. The cuts of the leading lumber counties of Washington for the year 1890 were as follows: King, 266,042,000; Jefferson, 229,000,000; Pierce, 168,000,000; Chehalis, 122,229,000; Kitsap, 117,518,000; Lewis, 116,500,000; Snohomish, 114,500,000; Spokane, 105,000,000.

VICTORIA TIMES: It is understood that Mr. Northcote, city assessor, has completed the assessment of the city inside of the old limits. It is expected that the total will be about \$18,000,000, say \$13,000,000 for land or real estate, according to the act, and \$5,000,000 for improvements. When the city assesses the newly acquired territory, which in acreage is more than the area of the land within the old limits, it will be found that the assessment roll for the city of Victoria will be about \$25,000,000; and this is a value placed upon estimates while no boom has visited this city.

THE owners of the large tugs on the Sound are forming a combination to put their gross earnings into a common fund, and at the end of each month divide it equally among the tug owners. Under this new order, when a tug takes a vessel to Nanaimo or any other port, it will allow them to lie there and wait for a return vessel, instead of burning coal on the way back without being paid for it. The idea is not to increase the price of towage, as 50 cents per ton for the round trip, the present rate, is considered fair by both tug owners and ship owners. The combination

will allow the tugs to work harmoniously together and will give a more efficient service to the ships, besides saving much expense to tug owners.

The Marine Department are giving proofs of their determination to render the coast of British Columbia more safe, and are having a number of buoys made at the Albion Iron Works, which it is proposed to place in position at an early date. Why, in this connection, it may be asked, should not all the work for the British Columbia service be done among ourselves? It can be done quite as well. Witness the magnificent job which was made of H. M. S. Amphion when she was thoroughly overhauled and repaired by home industry. Why, it may be repeated, was not the new Government steamship built here, instead of being put together on the Clyde? Is it because there is some superstition regarding the term "Clyde built?" or is it for the same reason, that, in the departments, whether of the Dominion or the Provinces, anyone from the "Old Country" has the preference over our own people for almost anything that is worth having?

A GOLD SYNDICATE.

Five enterprising merchants of Westminster have formed a company and sent into the interior a prospector to thoroughly examine for gold a certain district, specimens from which show indications of a highly favorable character. This prospector has already been in that part of the country, but lack of funds prevented him from thoroughly prospecting it. He is accompanied by one of the gentlemen interested. No elaborate particulars are given but there is every reason to believe that these gentlemen know just what they are about, as some of them are not novices in the mining business. The best way to impress the outside world with the importance of our mineral resources is for our own people to show, in a practical way, that they have every confidence in them. There is nothing that will help to draw capital here quicker than the fact of our own people taking hold of and seeking to develop the latent wealth that the Province most certainly possesses in the wonderful mineral deposits in our mining districts.—Columbian.