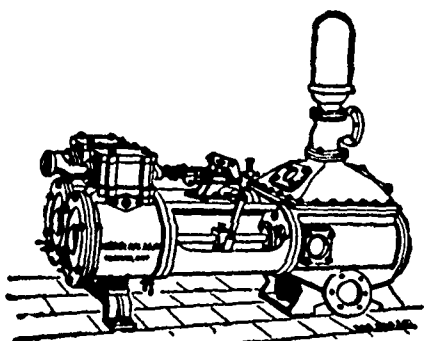


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manufacturers. There has unfortunately been no increase of activity in the South American trade to counterbalance these losses. On the contrary, most of the States in that region have decreased their purchases, being handicapped by currency difficulties and the low prices of exports, as well as in some instances by political troubles. That our exports for the last half year have not shown a considerably greater decline is due in the first place to the fact that business with the Continent has been well maintained; in the second, to larger shipments of raw materials, chiefly coal; and, thirdly, to the enormous increase in exports of cotton textiles to the British East Indies, the advance amounting to about three and a half millions sterling.

As regards the export trade of the past month, its leading features are the same as those of its predecessors, but there are one or two modifications that are worth pointing out. The decline in shipments to the United States was, if anything, on a larger scale than usual, but the increase in exports of raw materials and in those of cottons to the East was not quite so extensive, and these circumstances indicate the main cause of the falling off in exports. It was natural that this demand, which was largely due to abnormal causes, should slacken as time went on, but it is

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to be hoped that the settlement of the American tariff, which, if it does not go far to lighten the duties on British goods, will at least do away with the uncertainty that so clogs business, may act as a compensation. As regards imports, it is satisfactory to find an increase of nearly a million sterling in raw materials for sundry industries. On the other hand, imports of raw cotton, which had begun to slacken in May, showed a still further contraction last month, owing to the accumulation of stocks. Turning to the food imports, we find purchases of living animals still being made on an extensive scale, while as regards wheat, it is a most striking fact that, whereas our imports from the United States, including both the Atlantic and the Pacific Coasts, amounted to 2,970,000 cwts., those from the Argentine Republic came to no less than 2,326,000 cwts. Nothing could be more significant of the rapid manner in which Argentine is coming forward as a wheat exporter, or of how formidable a competitor she already is to the United States. As regards the trade of the month as a whole, it can not be said to indicate any pronounced symptoms of revival, except possibly in the increase in imports of sundry raw materials. The six months that are now commencing will probably be governed by a different set of conditions, and to the settlement of affairs in the United States we must mainly look for a stimulus to an improvement in business.

### **SKINNER'S TURTLE SOUP.**

We have received from Messrs. Burns, & Co., Ltd, (Australian merchants,) Vancouver, sample tins of Skinner's turtle soup. It is everything claimed for it by those dealers. This soup has been used at all state dinners and banquets in the Australasian colonies for the last ten years, and is now held in high estimation by connoisseurs in London and on the continent as far superior to that made from turtles that have come a voyage and have lived on their green fat. Skinner has great advantages; having boats and nets, he gets the turtle when in full season (prime and fat). The peculiar delicious taste, when fresh caught, is retained by his preserving them fresh from the sea by Skinner's patent process, invented by him to prevent the objectionable taste and smell given to soup when preserved by the ordinary process.

Burns, Philip & Co., Ltd., are the managing agents in Australia for the Canadian Australian Steamship Line, and their sole object in opening an office at Vancouver is to try and foster trade between this country and Australia. They are anxious to see what commodities we can send from this side, and are purchasers of goods suitable for their trade as general merchants, and would be pleased to take charge of any consignments at their head office in Sydney or Brisbane branch.

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