

### THE EXPORTS OF CANADA, 1868 TO 1904.

We present in this issue a table of statistics by which are exhibited the exports of this Dominion, for a series of years from 1868 to 1904. The classification is that adopted by the Department of Trade and Commerce, which divides the exports into six groups, viz., Produce of the Mine, Produce of the Fisheries, Produce of the Forest, Animals and their Produce, Agricultural Products, and Manufactures.

These are sufficiently explicit to clearly indicate the general nature of the articles exported from Canada. In several groups we have given some details, which are of special significance as showing the main channels through which flow the larger streams towards Great Britain.

The expansion of Canada's exports of food products to the old country since 1868, has been the leading feature in our foreign trade. Since 1868 we have increased our shipments of farm products as follows:

Farm products.	1904.	1868.	Increase or decrease
	\$	\$	\$
Exports to Great Britain.....	85,186,666	6,780,357	Inc. 78,406,309
"    United States....	8,080,676	11,927,690	Dec. 3,847,014
"    other countries.	7,683,652	1,053,175	Inc. 6,630,477
Total exp farm products.....	\$100,940,994	19,761,222	Inc. 81,189,772
Total exports.....	\$198,414,439	\$53,371,067	Inc. 145,043,37

Out of a gross increase in total exports of \$145,943,372 those of farm products were \$81,189,772. Out of the gross increase of \$81,189,772 in this class of exports since 1868, no less than \$78,406,309 was in the exports from Canada to Great Britain.

The increases in our exports to Great Britain and the United States, with their respective proportion to the total exports were as follows:

	1904.	1868.	Increase.
	\$	\$	\$
Great Britain.....	110,120,892	18,794,840	91,326,052
Percentage of total exports.....	55 per cent.	35 per cent.	.....
United States.....	66,856,885	29,324,757	37,532,128
Percentage of total exports.....	33.6 p. cent.	54.9 p. cent.	.....

The exports from Canada to Great Britain in 1868 were 35 per cent. of the total exports, whereas last year they were 55 per cent. of the total. On the other hand the exports of Canada to the United States in 1868, constituted 54.9 per cent. of the total, while in 1904 they were 33.6 per cent. of the total. The relative positions of Great Britain and the United States in regard to Canadian exports have been exactly reversed since 1868. We are now sending 20 per cent. more of our total exports to Great Britain than we did in 1868, and sending 20 per cent. less of our total exports to the United States than we did in the earlier year.

A remarkable feature in the yearly returns shows that, from 1868 to 1881 there was a steady increase in our exports to Great Britain, from \$18,794,840 to \$42,637,219, then, up 1889, there was a steady decline from \$42,637,219 down to \$33,504,281, which brought this branch of our trade lower than it was in 1874, so, for fifteen years, Canada was losing ground in British markets year by year. In 1890, a reverse movement set in, so that, in 1898, in 8 years, the exports to Great Britain more than doubled, the rise being from \$41,499,149 to \$93,065,019.

Considerable fluctuations have occurred since 1898, last year, for instance, having fallen below 1903, by 15 millions, but since the former year there has been an increase of \$17,055,873. The 1904 figure is almost exactly double that of 1892, and three times that of 1888 and 1889.

The record of exports to the United States differs very materially from that to Great Britain. Instead of an increase of six times between 1868 and 1904, as in the case of exports to Great Britain there was only an increase of two and one-third times. Between 1888 and 1899 when exports to Great Britain increased from \$33,648,284 to \$85,114,555, an increase of over 153 per cent., the exports to the United States increased by only \$19,373. For a long term of years we had been fighting hard to raise the amount of our exports to the States without any success, the amount in 1899 being actually less than in 1873, and most of the years being less than in 1870.

The determination of the United States to put obstructions in the way of Canadian products entering that country was very marked and very successful. Whether this fiscal policy was in the best interests of our neighbours is becoming more and more disputed by them, as is evident by a movement which is now assuming serious proportions, the object of which is to facilitate the entrance of certain classes of Canadian products, of wheat more especially, which is needed by American millers to enable them to manufacture flour equal in quality to that made in Canadian mills. Whether it is wiser for Canada to allow her wheat to pass into the United States in order to be ground into flour for export to markets where it will compete with Canadian flour, or, for Canada to place an export duty on wheat going to the States, which would tend to the removal of a part of America's flour manufacturing to Canada, is a very grave, and by no means an easy question.

The signs of the times all point to the probability of some fiscal changes being in process of development that will have a great effect on Canada's exports. Besides the American movement there is the agitation in Great Britain re inter Imperial trade, the outcome of which will not be manifest until some very exciting political contests have been "lost and won." It is a matter of the highest satisfaction that Canada is fast developing those resources from which her exports are derived.