

In 1845.

Flour.....bbls	717,466	Provisions.....bbls	68,000
Wheat.....bu	1,354,990	Ashes.....casks	34,602
Staves.....lbs	88,296,431	Wool.....lbs	2,957,761
Corn.....bu	33,069	But., Cheese and Lard	6,597,007

In 1846.

Flour.....bbls	1,280,897	Provisions.....bbls	99,339
Wheat.....bu	3,611,224	Ashes.....casks	22,465
Staves.....lbs	65,958,932	Wool.....lbs	3,762,829
Corn.....bu	1,119,689	But., Cheese and Lard	12,713,662

The entire amount of flour, wheat and other grain exported by the Western States, through the Lakes in 1846, for Canada and our own markets, reduced to bushels, will exceed 15,000,000 of bushels.

Having received a letter, dated 29th January ultimo, from Col. Abert, the head of the Topographical Department at Washington, propounding some questions to me in relation to this commerce, I will give his questions in the order in which they were presented, with the answers to each, as furnished by me, as the most perfect method of arriving at the particulars of the business, accompanied with such other details I had in my possession, but which I could not furnish him, for want of time.

Question 1st.—“*The commerce of the Lakes—returns in kind and quantities, as far as practicable, and for the years 1841, '42 '43, '44, '45 and '46.*”

“As the greatest portion of the export commerce of the Lakes passes through this city on its way to tide water, (large quantities also pass the Welland Canal to Canadian ports, and through Lake Ontario to New York) I will give you, as the best answer to this question, the lake imports, in kind and quantities, taken from the Custom House books, for the above series of years—remarking, at the same time, that these statements do not, by any means, comprise the