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Dominion Commercial Agents.

REPORTS from the Dominion's Commercial Agents abroad form what is perhaps the most practically valuable feature, and certainly not the

least interesting, in the monthly bulletins of the Department of Trade and Commerce. The recent visit to Canada of Prince Fushimi gives additional interest to the report from Mr. Alexander MacLean, Commercial Agent at Yokohama, which appears in an issue of the bulletin to hand this week. While exports from Japan to Canada for January of this year (the last month covered in the report) amounted to more than two and one-half times the showing for January, 1906, the imports from Canada were less. In fact the importation of Canadian wheat for the month was but \$3,613 as against \$12,238 for January, 1906. As has been before mentioned in THE CHRONICLE, a cheaper grade of United States grain is thus far proving a serious competitor to the Canadian grown cereal. As the Eastern taste for wheat flour products becomes more critical, a turning of the tables is hoped for.

The increasing Mexican demand for Canadian barley for malting purposes forms the subject of a report from Mr. A. W. Donly, the Dominion trade representative in Mexico City. He states that with the superior grade of Canadian barley, so well adapted for malting, and with a regular steamship service from Montreal, Canada should practically control the supplying of this demand. He strongly advises the farmers of Eastern Ontario to increase their barley acreage in view of the demand that has recently arisen.

From Sydney comes an interesting letter written by Mr. J. Starke, Commercial Agent for New South Wales, Queensland and New Zealand.

The trade of the first mentioned State with Canada is summarized for 1905 and 1906 by the following figures:

	1905	1906
Imports from Canada	£73,443	£150,132
Exports to Canada	41,459	723,308

The increase in imports from Canada was in reality considerably greater than that indicated, as the above figures do not include imports from Canada coming into this State through ports of other States of the Commonwealth. Portions of New South Wales are more easily supplied from Melbourne and Adelaide than from Sydney, and now that there are no inter-state trade restrictions there is a tendency to an increase in the proportion of imports from Canada which come through other States. The great increase in exports to Canada is made up largely of gold sent by the Canadian-Australian steamers, the bulk of which is destined really for the United States.

From New Zealand, Mr. Larke reports high praise for the business methods of several Toronto and Montreal manufacturing and export firms. In chronicling this he adds, "It is a great pleasure to make these statements in view of the necessity in past years of pointing out the defects in Canadian business methods." Comment is also made upon the circumstance that Canadian manufacturers are more and more adopting the proper policy of advising their customers when unable to fill an order promptly; instead of delaying it for months, as was too frequently the former custom.

Expansion is taking place in the trade of Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. Mr. D. H. Ross writes that from inquiries made in Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth in regard to importations from Canada, he has secured undoubted proof that considerable expansion has recently taken place, despite the fact that there has been an advance in manufacturers' export prices in several lines. Orders sent to Canada from the cities named during the first three months of the present year are said to have about trebled in value the orders forwarded during the similar period of last year. Mr. Ross mentions, as bearing upon Canadian trade interests, that the session of the Commonwealth parliament which is to be held next month will attend to a revision of the Australian customs tariff.