

## THE CANADIAN SHIPPING BUSINESS.

In considering the extent of and distribution of the trading interests of Canada, there is commonly either an entire omission of data referring to the shipping business of this country, or only such allusions to it as leave no definite impression as to its extent as a national industry. If, however, at this time, when navigation is open from ocean to ocean, it were possible to see at a glance all the ports of the Dominion, there would be such an exhibit of thousands of men working like beavers on the wharves, landing stages, and vessels being laden or unladen, as would be a demonstration of the shipping trade of Canada being one of its leading industries. Every vessel which enters any of our ports becomes during its stay an employer of Canadian labour and a purchaser of Canadian goods. When a vessel clears for its outward voyage it carries with it not only the mercantile cargo with which it has been freighted, but, also a considerable amount of goods in the shape of provisions and other articles for the use of the crew and passengers on the voyage. The latter class of goods do not appear in the return of the country's exports, yet the amount in each year must be very large when we consider that, on an average, 28,000 vessels annually enter and clear from Canadian ports, whose aggregate tonnage is over six millions of tons register. The supplies purchased by vessels in our ports are as truly "exports" as the cargo on a ship's "manifest." There is not an hour of any day in the year in which these exports are not flowing out from some port, yet they are entirely omitted in statements as to the amount of Canadian products sold for foreign consumption, and to that extent they vitiate the ordinary returns as to the balance of trade. The Department of Trade and Navigation would add a highly interesting chapter to its Reports were it to collect and publish statistics showing: (1) the number of men employed in the unloading and loading of vessels in Canadian ports; (2) the annual aggregate of wages earned by Canadians so employed; (3) the annual value of the supplies furnished to out-going ships; (4) the annual outlays in Canada by vessels for the maintenance of the crew while in port; (5) the number of foreign sailors who enter our ports each year, and the average time spent in port by each of them. As regards the vessels trading in inland waters which cleared from Canadian ports in 1897-98, the "crew number" is given in the Trade and Navigation Report, page 838, as 223,973. With the facilities possessed by the Government for obtaining information, we believe the task of securing the above data would be found not at all difficult, and if secured they would considerably expand our knowledge of the trade and economic resources of this country.

The following shows the tonnage of Canadian, British and foreign sea-going vessels, which cleared from Canadian ports in the year 1897-98:

Nationality.	1898 No. of Vessels.	1898 Tons Register.	1896 No. of Vessels.	1896 Tons Register.
Canadian.....	6,088	1,051,893	6,652	1,073,318
British.....	2,029	2,792,793	1,542	2,034,717
United States.....	4,703	1,707,483	5,556	1,854,134
Norwegian & Swed.	494	400,510	468	366,711
Austrian.....	17	29,295	8	4,611
Belgian.....	1	1,158	8	14,184
Chilian.....	2	1,830	7	7,693
Danish.....	13	16,160	5	2,959
Dutch.....	3	3,761	3	5,033
French.....	137	40,394	132	37,375
German.....	35	80,927	37	51,599
Hawaiian.....	29	57,675	21	42,187
Italian.....	27	19,170	26	19,635
Japanese.....	1	2,972	.....	.....
Nicaraguan.....	.....	.....	19	23,273
Peruvian.....	1	398	.....	.....
Portuguese.....	3	532	2	336
Russian.....	7	3,333	14	9,220
Spanish.....	7	9,399	11	16,479
Totals cleared....	13,597	6,219,683	14,511	5,563,464
Totals of vessels entered and cleared.	27,787	12,585,485	29,802	11,458,824

The respective numbers and tonnages of the above sea-going vessels which were classified as "steam" and "sail" were as follows:—

	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Canadian & Bri. St.	2,553	3,121,322	1,910	2,345,195
do Sail.....	5,564	723,364	6,284	762,840
Foreign Steam.....	2,374	1,617,375	3,230	1,650,189
do Sail.....	3,106	757,622	3,087	805,240
Total Steam....	4,927	4,738,697	5,140	3,995,384
do Sail.....	8,670	1,480,986	9,371	1,568,080
Grand Totals....	13,597	6,219,683	14,511	5,563,464

## Average Tonnage.

Canadian.....	172	161
British.....	1,376	1,320
United States.....	363	334

The vessels trading on the lakes and rivers between the United States and Canada in the same years were classified as follows:—

	No. 1898	Tons.	No. 1896	Tons
Canadian, Steam....	5,290	2,517,604	5,344	2,381,876
do Sail.....	2,379	528,981	2,427	483,372
United States, Steam	7,066	2,646,205	6,285	1,695,977
do Sail.....	2,748	516,136	2,991	527,164
Grand Totals... ..	17,483	6,208,926	17,047	5,088,389

The vessels engaged in the coasting trade of Canada in those years were as below:—

Brit. & Canadian S.	36,321	11,175,672	32,389	10,936,641
do Sail.....	33,099	2,893,927	28,958	2,353,907
Foreign Steam.....	86	68,621	83	44,787
do Sail.....	131	24,660	372	46,502
Grand Totals.....	69,634	14,162,880	61,802	13,381,837

From the above statistics we get the following results. In the fiscal year 1897-98 the entire number of vessels, steam and sail, which cleared out of Canadian ports, which were employed in the sea-going, the lake and river and the coasting trade of this country was 100,714, with an aggregate registered tonnage of 26,591,489 tons. Of these vessels, 85 per cent. in number, and 80 per cent. in tonnage, were of Canadian and British registry, and 15 per cent. in number, and 20 per cent. in tonnage, were ships under a foreign flag. As every one of the vessels included in the above