

	Australia.	New Zealand.
Imports.....	\$ 443,381	\$3,066,699
Exports.....	3,950,895	1,698,093

The imports from Australia only show a gain in value of \$12,000 in the past year, where as the gain in those received from New Zealand has been over \$1,700,000. In exports Canada's trade with the Commonwealth shows a falling off of \$45,000 during the year, as compared with a gain of \$350,000 made by New Zealand.

Our most important exports to Australia consist of agricultural implements, to the value of \$250,699; printing paper, \$179,173; vehicles motor cars and parts, \$176,742; fish, \$81,000; metal manufactures, \$43,569, and timber, \$70,922. Our chief imports from Australia are hides and skins, \$81,392; meats, \$45,069 vegetable products, \$10,948.

In several particulars, there is no reason why Canada's trade need be largely increased. In the matter of printing paper for example, Canada should practically capture the entire business. This country possesses the Forests, the Paper Mills, Water Power and everything required for the economical manufacture of paper. It is to be hoped that the Hon. Geo. E. Foster will be able to bring about some reciprocal trade arrangements with Australia, whereby our business with the Commonwealth will be largely increased.

The total trade of Australia with oversea countries last year reached the enormous value of £156,958,249, an increase over 1911 of no less than £10,508,503.

FAITH IN CANADA'S FUTURE.

At a time when many critics are saying unkind things about Western Canada, and her real estate boom, many of the western papers are deriving a good deal of satisfaction from the statements of Mr. J. B. Firth, a competent British observer, who recently investigated conditions west of the Great Lakes. After criticising the somewhat reckless borrowings of many western towns, and pointing out that these municipalities secured British money at from 4 1-2% to 5%, with which to finance their civic undertakings, they themselves were loaning out money at from 6% to 10% interest. Mr. Firth pointed out that it was British money that was back of the development going on in Western Canada, and reminded his western friends that they should not allow anything to interfere that would in any sense injure their credit with British investors. Mr. Firth declared that he had no fears for Canada's future and stated that we have a "solid basis of prosperity and a sure hope for rapid development." The following extract from his observations should give much encouragement to western municipalities:

"The Dominion," he points out, "has an area of 3,743,000 square miles and comprises one-sixteenth of the land surface of the globe. With a territory as large as Europe, Canada has a population of only 7,750,000. Her net public debt is within \$350,000,000, or only \$45 per head of her population, while her annual income from agriculture, mining forest products, fisheries and manufactures is close upon \$1,500,000,000, or about \$200 per head of the population. Deducting \$150,000,000 a year as the payment for which Canada is liable in respect of her indebtedness for interest

to British and foreign creditors, and there still remains a net income of \$1,350,000,000, or \$174 per head. Assuming the national wealth of Canada to be eight times the amount of her net income, and we have the impressive total of \$10,800,000,000, or \$1,400 per head of the population. Canada has, moreover, a comfortable surplus of revenue over expenditure in her annual budget and her burden of taxation is relatively light. For a country so fortunately situated the bursting of an inflate real estate bubble can only be a temporary disaster and one that can hardly fail to carry with it a valuable lesson. How much the lesson is needed may be inferred from the fact that as high as \$5,000 a foot has been paid for land in the choicest part of Calgary, and that in an obscure little town a corner lot 130 feet by 100 feet has commanded as high a price as \$60,000. In parts of Edmonton land has been held as high as if it were in the heart of New York or London, and in Winnipeg and Montreal there are sites which their owners would scarcely exchange for a similar surface on Cornhill in the British metropolis."

In other words, it is caution not fear that prompts the British money-lenders to demand a slower but surer pace in western development. But the fact that Canada is a debtor country and likely to remain so for many years to come, need cause no alarm because it is a natural condition of growth.

THE GRAINARIES OF THE EMPIRE.

That Canada and other outlying parts of the British Empire are likely to supply the Mother country with her wheat for many years to come is shown by recently published statistics. The figures deal with the wheat-growing area in the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, but as the former has but two million acres devoted to wheat-growing, the figures can be taken to apply to the three Overseas Dominions, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. In the decade from 1901 to 1911, the wheat area has increased from 11,500,000 acres to 20,000,000, or a gain of 78%. During the same decade, the population of the four countries increased from 51,500,000 to 58,000,000, or about 13%. These figures are made more significant when recognition is taken of the wheat-growing areas or other countries. In the United States for the past ten years there has been little or no increase in acreage under wheat, and instead of being a grain-exporting country, the United States will shortly become an importing country. In eleven European countries the increase in the wheat area from 1901 to 1911 was 17.1%, while the increase in population in the same countries was 15.6%. In six other countries the increase in the wheat area was 19.9%, and in population 20.6%, which indicates that the consuming population in these countries is increasing almost as fast as their wheat-growing areas. The result of these comparisons go to show that Canada and the other outlying portions of the Empire are likely to become more and more the granaries of the Empire. These figures should prove encouraging to Canadian grain growers.

Since 1891 the Canadian population has increased by 55 per cent., but the wheat area has increased from 2,723,000 acres in 1891 to