

A glance at this table is sufficient to shew, not only a steady, but a rapid increase in the commerce of the four Provinces included in it, since the accomplishment of Confederation. The slight falling off in the Imports of 1869 is scarcely noticeable, and the decline of two millions in the Value of the Exports, and two and one half millions in that of the imports of 1874, is attributable to the depression prevailing in the United States in all Departments of trade, rather than to any reverses originating in Canada. Indeed, the whole difference in the Aggregate Values of Imports between 1873 and 1874, may be accounted for by the reduction in prices, not only in the United States, but also in Great Britain during the latter Year, and is not to be accepted as indicating a reduction in quantities. This will be apparent when it is remembered that an average reduction of two per cent in Values would account for the whole decrease of 1874.

The relative bearing of the Customs Tariff upon the Commerce of each Province of the Dominion is exhibited in the following Table :

Years.	Per Centage of Duty on Total Value of Imports, Dutiable and Free.							
	Ontario.	Quebec.	Nova Scotia.	New Brunswick.	Manitoba.	British Columbia.	Prince Edward Island.	Dominion.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1868.....	08·85	14·04	12·40	13·59	.....	.....	.....	12·00
1869.....	08·62	13·68	12·50	13·58	.....	.....	.....	11·78
1870.....	09·26	14·78	13·00	14·85	.....	.....	.....	12·65
1871.....	09·87	13·81	12·42	14·63	06·18	.....	.....	12·32
1872.....	10·30	12·50	10·75	13·62	04·97	19·12	.....	11·70
1873.....	08·76	10·94	10·75	11·79	05·23	13·79	.....	10·17
1874.....	08·84	12·83	12·56	13·72	03·75	16·13	11·50	11·25

The above shews the actual percentage of Customs Duties levied each Year from 1868 to 1874, inclusive. The calculations are based upon Total Imports, including the Value of Free as well as Dutiable goods. It will be seen that under the variety of changes which the Tariff has undergone since 1868, there has been very little variation in the average percentage of Duties levied under each, and in 1874 there is actually a slight decrease as compared with 1868.

The greatest difference appears in the comparison of Ontario and Quebec. This is accountable for on two grounds. Chiefly from the fact that the proportion of Free Goods Imported in Ontario is very much in excess of any other Province of the Dominion, owing to the larger number, and greater extent, of the manufactories in operation in that Province, the raw material used in which, is generally found on the free list; while the reverse of this is true of the Province of Quebec. The Importation of large quantities of foreign grain also in Ontario, which is entered free of Duty, and afterwards Exported chiefly from the Port of Montreal, either unchanged or in the forms of flour and meal contributes largely to produce this result.

It must be remembered also, that the Port of Montreal is nearly as much a feeder of