

**Imports and Exports.**

The statistical bureau of the Treasury Department has prepared tables in regard to the value of recent imports and exports, by which it is shown there was an increase of \$39,392,511 in the value of imports during the nine months ending March 31, as compared with the value of imports during the corresponding period of the preceding year; also that the imports have decreased in value in the following particulars: Coffee, \$2,572,319, seeds, not medicinal, \$1,458,006; manufacturers of silk, \$1,276,795, leaving the total increase of imports, \$33,755,391. The value of domestic exports during the nine months ended March 31, 1886, shows a falling off of \$74,652,185, as compared with the value of exports during the corresponding period of last year. There was an increase of \$3,700,000 in the value of corn exports and an increase of about \$4,000,000 in the value of leaf tobacco exports. There was a decrease of about 35,500,000 bushels in the exports of wheat, a decrease of over 2,750,000 gallons in the exports of Bourbon whiskey, and an increase of about 14,000,000 pounds in the exports of lard

**Sixteen Millions for Big Guns.**

The Committee on Coast Defenses, in the United States Senate, has recently reported favorably on two bills relating to production of guns for national defense. These bills authorize the Secretaries of War and the Navy, respectively to make contracts, after suitable advertisements for the supply of rough bored, rough turned and tempered steel for the fabrication of heavy ordnance. For this purpose these bills propose to spend \$8,000,000 during the six years after next January. Provision is made for the erection, at the Washington Navy Yard, of a foundry to cost \$1,000,000, and another at West Troy, N. Y., to cost \$1,000,000. In the selection of places for the establishment of these foundries attention was had to all the expenses of cost in transportation of metal, coal, etc., nearness to skilled labor, to the facilities for delivering the guns to the desired points, and to the possibilities of defending or protecting the foundries in case of foreign war. All these matters were of necessity absolute essentials, and, while other locations meet in part these requirements, a very careful consideration seems to indicate the wisdom of uniting on the places above named as, on the whole the very best. --Chicago Journal of Commerce.



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