

PORTS.	WHEAT. Bushels.	CORN. Bushels.	PEAS. Bushels.	BEANS. Bushels.	BARLEY. Bushels.	FLOUR. Barrels.	MEAL. Barrels.	BUTTER. Lbs.	CHEESE. Boxes.
Liverpool	3,895,674	1,804,078	566,668	391,287	89,816	49,955	15,707	144,636	592,719
London	2,701,535	624,465	891,507	55,608	140,588	12,015	883	1,706	57,594
Glasgow	1,468,880	929,524	376,540	36,091	62,571	139,488	8,973	24,203	19,807
Cork, orders	725,161	319,500	291,900	.....	17,901	5,412	.....	.....	44,551
Bristol	790,221	339,328	162,204	34,246	53,534	.....	.....	12,980	.....
Hull	152,433	95,941	.....	.....	.....	1,075	82	.....	.....
Leith	43,380	55,419	15,733	16,924	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Newcastle	78,128	.....	21,780	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Newry	25,672	149,614	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Penarth R's	34,369	80,238	16,941	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Antwerp	161,778	.....	.....	.....	13,860	51	.....	39	.....
Bordeaux	109,116	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rotterdam	44,909	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total, 1879	9,417,051	4,011,986	2,376,606	601,299	378,646	351,065	31,760	192,041	516,093
Total, 1878	5,557,743	5,545,906	1,894,240	904,475	81,564	316,569	76,643	119,268	464,416
	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Increase.
	3,859,308	1,534,929	482,365	303,176	297,082	34,498	44,893	72,773	51,647

Dairy produce, as we have formerly stated, formed a conspicuous item in the exports of Montreal last Year. The shipments of cheese reached 571,704 boxes, and of butter 259,901 packages, being the largest ever made from that port in one season. Liverpool took by far the greater share of these, and a few went to Antwerp.

Lumber export to South America was carried on by 20 vessels of 10,868 tons, carrying 8,662,563 feet of lumber, as against 20 vessels of 11,013 tons with 8,860,000 feet in 1878.

Turning to imports, the most striking item is the increased import of sugar, 57,030,970 lbs. were last year brought into Montreal, against 27,595,700 lbs in 1878, the effect of a change in the tariff. In the six months ending December 31st the imports of sugar into the Dominion were as follows:—

	From	1878 lbs.	1879 lbs.
Great Britain	19,038,564	9,961,195	
United States	36,635,630	8,227,462	
West Indies	4,517,857	36,030,051	
Total	60,192,051	54,218,708	

The quantity of tea imported had decreased fifty per cent. during 1877 as compared with the previous, and still more in comparison with other years, and in 1878 it was only 3,906,253 lbs., an increase of one-seventh. But in 1879 it was 4,732,894 lbs. valued at \$995,443. This valuation shows a steady decline in the price of our consumption of tea from an average of 31 cents in 1874 to 22½ cents in 1877 and 21 cents in 1878 and 1879, a state of things which the change of duty from *specific* to *ad valorem* tended to bring about. The value of dry goods imported at Montreal has shown a pretty steady decline from \$10,612,000 in 1875 to \$6,138,244 in 1879. The decrease is greatest in woollens and hosiery, which are now more largely manufactured in the Dominion; carpets and shawls, small wares and fancy goods show a marked decline, but there is an increase in hats and caps.

Imports of iron and other metals, the total of which showed a continuous decline from \$2,552,587 in value in 1876 to \$1,802,136 in 1878, swelled to \$2,167,840 in 1879, much of which is attributable to a rise in price in iron goods during the year last named. Lead and copper showed a decline throughout all these years. Less pig iron was brought in last year but nearly three times in value of railway bars, frogs and plates as compared with 1878. Manufactured hardware showed a total of \$822,362, a larger amount than in any of these previous years.

The value of imports at Montreal for the past two years was as follows:—

	1879.	1878.
Dutiable Goods	\$26,659,841	\$17,757,389
Free Goods	6,515,744	7,336,745
Total	\$33,175,585	\$25,094,134

BANK MEETINGS.

Further meetings of bank shareholders have been held since we last wrote, and the result of them appears to have been so little unsatisfactory that there has been a perceptible improvement in the market for bank shares. The vague impression in many minds that a bank is a sort of machine which unfailingly grinds out fat dividends whatever the state of trade or of monetary affairs may be, is giving place, in some degree at least, to a recognition of the fact that a bank is as subject to vicissitudes as a manufacturing or mercantile business. What bankers often do, to protect themselves from loss or to provide

against an evil day, is put down by the unthinking to usuriousness or the desire to crush a customer temporarily in their power. And more than their due share of the overtrading, which has been witnessed is commonly laid upon the shoulders of the banks. A clever writer has lately said:—“A general outcry against banks is preposterous; they are the vital organs of a commercial community; a man might as well raise an outcry against his own lungs and liver.”

The agreeable announcement is made by the authorities of the Bank of British North America, that no bad debts had been made by that bank in the last half year, and further, that the amount of overdue paper it held was extremely small. The Merchants Bank shows this year improved net earnings, with reduced discounts. After declaring six per cent. dividend, and writing \$57,550 off bank premises and furniture account, it carries \$212,304 to contingent fund. Among the items of profit is nearly \$24,000 on Detroit and Milwaukee bonds, presumably sold. These particulars, we gather from a telegram, the full text of the report not being yet to hand.

The Bank of Toronto adopts, in its last exhibit, the new form of return prescribed by Government, and the Ontario Bank does the same, with the remark that it furnishes a more detailed exhibit of a bank's affairs. The “clean sweep” made by the former institution last year, when the directors stated that they had written off every bad debt, is remembered with an inward groan by some shareholders, who not only got a reduced dividend, but saw a large amount written off the Rest. This year, however, the losses are described as small; net profits \$22,000 larger have been earned; and it has been found possible, after paying the dividend, to restore \$50,000 to the Rest account, which probably was not expected, with discounts barely larger than last year, evidencing the quietness of nearly all descriptions of business. The items of real estate other than bank premises, and overdue debts unsecured, show a reduction in the present statement. We observe a decrease in the amount of deposits, probably occasioned by the policy of reducing the rate of interest upon them. The proportion of deposits not bearing interest is, in this bank, 26 per cent. of the whole, and in the Bank of Hamilton, 21.3 per cent., while in the Federal, for instance, which holds \$1,000,000 more, it is 16 per cent.

The year's earnings of the Ontario Bank were about the same as last year, say 7½ per cent. on the capital, management expenses and accrued dividends being deducted. Nothing is written off for losses, but