

CANADA AND JAPAN.

Comparison of Foreign Trade—Canadian Commerce with the Orient in its Infancy—Importance of Future Development.

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(Specially Written for the Monetary Times.)

While Canada has increased the volume of her foreign trade by leaps and bounds in recent years, Japan has increased her foreign trade within the last decade from little over two hundred million to nearly five hundred million dollars. While Canada exports fifty or sixty million dollars worth of agricultural products annually, Japan imports every year cereals amounting to over twenty-five million dollars. While Canada exports annually forty million dollars from her mines, Japan imports every year over twenty-five million dollars worth of metals and manufactures thereof. Would it not be strange, then, if Canada did not exert her best efforts in future to develop her exports towards this direction?

It is for this reason mainly that the statesmen and far-sighted captains of industries of the two countries have been endeavouring to develop the good-will and friendship between them. It was for this reason that Canada, at great cost, displayed her fine exhibition at the Osaka Exposition in 1903. It was for this reason that the Commercial Treaty was made effective between Japan and Canada in 1906.

Possibilities of the Future.

When the Canadian West is more thickly populated and the ever-increasing crops are harvested; when the enormous mineral resources of British Columbia are developed more fully; when trains running daily over the National Trans-Continental line between the two oceans side by side with those of the great Canadian Pacific Railway; and when steamers of up-to-date accommodation are placed between the northern point of the British Columbian coast and the Orient; then, the markets for Canadian farm, mines and forest products will have to be sought in the Orient. And it does not take a prophet to foresee how the commercial relations of Canada with the Orient will be at that date.

In order to substantiate what is stated above, it will be interesting to look into the figures. According to official returns, the total sum of merchandise imported into Japan in the last calendar year amounted to \$247,233,673, as is shown in the following table. The figures are given in thousands.

Cereals and flour	\$25,198
Salted salmon	270
Condensed milk	1,331
Sugar	9,932
Hide	1,144
Sole leather	1,094
Kerosene oil	7,177
Cotton ginned	57,017
Shirting and sheeting	4,120
Woolen yarn	2,500
Woolen cloths	4,337
Printing paper	1,704
Metals and manufactures	25,855
Bicycles	645
Timbers and lumbers	1,478
Wood pulp	826
Oil cake and other fertilizer	20,464

It is also interesting to note the principal exports of Japan. The official returns of exports for 1907 amount to \$216,206,437. This is shown in the following table, the figures being given in thousands:—

Tea	\$ 6,267
Sulphur	550
Camphor	2,513
Raw silk	61,565
Cotton yarn	15,171
Silk piece goods	15,820
Shirting and sheeting	3,470
Cotton drills and T. cloths	1,143
Silk handkerchiefs	2,648
Coal	9,526
Copper	19,631
Porcelain and earthen wares	3,608
Straw plaits and chip braids	2,500
Lacquered wares	822
Fans	624
Brushes	500
Matches	4,723

Present Conditions of the Trade.

The trade between Canada and Japan at present is still in its infancy. But as the possibilities of the future development are obviously as great as above demonstrated, the infant

must be carefully tended. Every care must be taken not to place any obstacle in its way, and to remove those that may exist if the trade is to be fostered. It is by such care that Japanese trade with Great Britain and the United States has attained such large proportions. Annual imports from the former amount to sixty million dollars, and those from the latter to forty or fifty million dollars.

Tea, the great item of import from Japan has declined in the Canadian markets since the advent of Ceylon and Indian teas. Ten years ago, the annual import of Japanese tea was over ten million pounds, the value amounting to over one million and half of dollars. In recent years it has receded to about four million pounds, the value amounting to only six hundred thousand dollars; thus, the decline in this item alone is one million dollars. On the other hand imports from Japan of rice, silks, camphor, rugs and matings, porcelain wares, linen drawn works, and other articles have increased gradually, thus filling up the gap made by the decline of tea.

Canadian Exports to Japan.

Ten years ago, exports to Japan from Canada were insignificant, amounting to a little over one hundred thousand dollars. To-day, they amount to seven hundred thousand dollars. If these figures are not very large they are pregnant in meaning.

The export of Canadian flour to Japan, inaugurated by the visit to Japan by the Hon. Mr. Sydney Fisher five years ago, amounts to thirty thousand barrels, valued at one hundred and thirty thousand dollars; fishery products, thanks to Japanese enterprise in British Columbia, amounting to two (in some years, three) hundred thousand dollars. Lead from the smelters of British Columbia, is over two hundred thousand dollars; the forests of the same province send products worth sixty or seventy thousand dollars. Especially though it was started only after Canada condensed milk, al- between Great Britain and Japan in July, 1906. Until then, it was impossible for Canadian condensed milk to compete against the American goods in the Japanese markets, for the former has been barred from enjoying the benefit of the lower rates of the preferential tariff.

Increasing Appetite for Foodstuffs.

Although the present volume of trade between Japan and Canada is still not large, the possibility of its development is immense. While the demand for foodstuffs in Japan is enormous and growing every year, the resources of agricultural products in Canada is practically limitless. And while serving as the granary for the British Isles and European countries, Canada's boundless wheat lands in the North-West could feed millions in the Orient. The same is true of the products of the fisheries and forests and mines. In exchange, Japan can send to Canada silk, tea, rice, porcelain wares and various kinds of fine arts that are not profitably produced in Canada. It will be well, therefore, to have these possibilities always in view when the trade and other relations between Japan and Canada are being considered.

How the Trade Now Stands.

The official statistics of the international trade between the two countries are as follows. Imports into Canada from Japan for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1908:—

Articles	Quantity.	Value.
	Lbs.	
Rice, uncleaned, unhulled or paddy	11,904,618	\$ 346,607
Brooms and brushes		32,232
Carpets, mats and rugs		62,128
Coal, coke, etc.		52,208
Cotton and manufactures of		21,859
Drugs, dyes, chemicals, etc.		43,242
Earthenware and chinaware		109,702
Fancy goods		20,715
Flax, hemp, jute and manufactures of		85,841
Nuts, all kinds	590,643	27,765
Oranges, lemons and limes		26,658
Silk clothing		45,545
Silk fabrics		276,982
Silk handkerchiefs		114,771
Raw silk and others		40,403
Tea	4,271,365	657,450
Vegetables		25,879
All other articles imported		206,207
Total imports (merchandise)		\$2,196,284
Imports for 1907 (nine months)		\$ 1,658,738
Imports for 1906		1,662,929
Imports for 1905		1,914,787
Imports for 1904		1,908,801
Imports for 1903		1,487,451
Grand total imports for 5 years and 9 mos.		\$10,918,990

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