EXPORT COMMERCE OF CANADA.

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I WAS tempted a short time ago to examine the records of Canadian export trade during the past quarter of a century, and found that the inquiry was both instructive and interesting. The Dominion has grown steadily during this period in many different lines of production, first supplying its own wants either entirely in some lines or to a considerable extent in others, and now, during the past few years, selling a very large surplus, not required at home, to markets abroad. Of course, before the Union of the British Provinces in 1867, these scattered communities exported a great many of the raw products of the farm, the forests, the fisheries, and the mines. These were our principal sources of wealth. During the Civil War in the United States, and the existence of free trade in natural products between that country and ours, a large export trade was done in these lines. In many respects our exports are still chiefly of this character. But it is interesting to observe how we have gradually introduced manufacturing methods into our export business, thus employing more people at home to carry on these operations, and, naturally getting a better price for more highly finished articles.

"YE ANCIENT BRITONS."

Conditions in 1870. A year or two after the union of the Provinces is a convenient point at which to take a view of our export operations. Take 1870 for the purposes of examination and comparison. The Reciprocity Treaty with the United States had ceased to exist five years before. Free trade reigned between Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The business Old Canada used to do with the Maritime Provinces had dissappeared from the official records, because we were now one country with the same tariff. There were no Western Prairie Provinces, no railway connection with the Atlantic seaboard by Canadian soil, and no communication with British Columbia at all. Yet, the new Dominion, in 1870, exported products to the value of $73,500,000. That was the period of high prices, remember, but exporters, in handing in official returns, gave modest figures. In minerals, we sold abroad $2,500,000, the largest item being coal, and the next petroleum. Of the fisheries, the sales amounted to $3,500,000, the chief article being dry salted cod. The lumber trade was very extensive, in fact, the largest single item in the list, amounting to $21,000,000. Then agricultural products, $13,500,000, and animal produce, $12,000,000. Lastly, omitting miscellaneous, manufactures were exported amounting to $2,133,000.

Manufacturing Twenty-eight Years Ago. Several of our manufactures were then in a truly infant stage. Cotton was just beginning to exert itself, Mr. Parks' mill in New Brunswick and one or two small mills in Ontario being the pioneer enterprises up to that date. A small export of cottons, $12,905 worth, is however recorded. They were shipped from Montreal, some to England and some to the United States. The Parks' mill in St. John sent $8,000 worth to the United States, and there was a shipment from Halifax to the West Indies. This was the time when we did a little linen manufacturing in Canada, and a small shipment of linens went from Montreal to the United States. Some woollens were shipped — to the value of $35,000—some from Kingston, Ont., to the United States, some from Montreal to England, and some from Halifax and St. John to Newfoundland. We did a small export trade also in biscuits, carriages, made-up furs, musical instruments, and soap.

In the iron manufacturing trades Canadian skill showed up pretty well, considering all things — we sold abroad some lines of hardware, machinery, sewing machines, and pig iron. Canadian beer, and whiskey, were then, as now, among the best in the world, and a quantity made in Ontario and Quebec went to the United States, and from Nova Scotia to the West Indies. But, all told, our factory manufactures exported came only to about $2,000,000, and several items, such as rags, wood, and straw, helped to fill the list. There must have been quite a run on Canadian books, for the export was valued at $51,793. The heaviest port of shipment in Ontario was Clifton, on the Niagara frontier (for the United States). Quebec was not so far behind Montreal, with exports of $10,000,000, against Montreal's $19,000,000, while St. John, N.B., with $3,853,000, ran ahead of Halifax with its $2,993,000.

The Farm was King. But the new Dominion was then, as it is in 1899, pre-eminent for its exports from the farm. It is curious to observe the changes which Dingley tariffs and new conditions have wrought. The barley trade was extensive, the exports reaching nearly $5,000,000, and some of it went by ships from Montreal, too. Butter was a great business, also, and, after