

And that was the last heard of this important question until January 21 of this year, when I put a question which was answered by the right hon. Prime Minister. The question and answer are reported in 'Hansard' as follows:

IMPORTATION, MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF CIGARETTES.

Mr. Blain asked:

Will the government at this session introduce legislation to prohibit the importation, manufacture and sale of cigarettes, as expressed by resolution of this House on April 1, 1903?

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). The government, Mr. Speaker, have not come to the conclusion that they should introduce any legislation to prohibit the importation, manufacture and sale of cigarettes as expressed by resolution of this House on April 1, 1903, but I need not tell my hon. friend (Mr. Blain) that it is quite open to him to introduce such legislation if he sees fit.

From that answer I anticipated, of course that my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) would give to the House and country legislation in accordance with the resolution passed by such a large majority in 1903. Of course, my right hon. friend stated that he did not intend to propose such legislation this session, but that it was open for me to introduce a Bill of that kind. On looking into the rules of the House, I found that, although this resolution was passed in 1903 by the large majority I have mentioned, it would not be in order for me to base a Bill upon it, or in other words, it is necessary for a similar resolution to be passed at this session before a Bill can be introduced.

I wish now to give some figures to show the nature of the question with which we have to deal.

Statement of the number of cigarettes manufactured in each province of Canada each year from 1896 to 1906, both inclusive.

1896.	
Ontario.. . . .	2,135,500
Quebec.. . . .	82,772,400
New Brunswick.. . . .	1,008,000
British Columbia.. . . .	78,500
Total.. . . .	85,994,400

1897.	
Ontario.. . . .	1,404,000
Quebec.. . . .	91,808,000
New Brunswick.. . . .	13,230,500
British Columbia.. . . .	50,680
Total.. . . .	106,493,180

1898.	
Ontario.. . . .	227,947
Quebec.. . . .	77,189,550
New Brunswick.. . . .	10,528,070
Total.. . . .	87,945,567

Mr. BLAIN.

1899.	
Ontario.. . . .	212,128
Quebec.. . . .	98,717,100
New Brunswick.. . . .	6,430,600
Total.. . . .	105,359,828

1900.	
Ontario.. . . .	137,732
Quebec.. . . .	115,906,300
New Brunswick.. . . .	7,223,400
Total.. . . .	123,267,072

1901.	
Ontario.. . . .	1,304,084
Quebec.. . . .	118,054,850
New Brunswick.. . . .	5,858,000
Total.. . . .	125,073,134

1902.	
Ontario.. . . .	9,620,684
Quebec.. . . .	122,788,250
New Brunswick.. . . .	5,858,000
Total.. . . .	138,266,934

1903.	
Ontario.. . . .	11,259,300
Quebec.. . . .	161,080,521
New Brunswick.. . . .	6,394,210
Total.. . . .	178,734,031

1904.	
Ontario.. . . .	8,506,430
Quebec.. . . .	201,468,300
New Brunswick.. . . .	5,908,200
Total.. . . .	215,882,930

1905.	
Ontario.. . . .	6,560,400
Quebec.. . . .	242,323,437
New Brunswick.. . . .	4,739,200
Total.. . . .	253,624,037

1906.	
Ontario.. . . .	5,935,100
Quebec.. . . .	268,312,700
New Brunswick.. . . .	1,629,550
Total.. . . .	270,877,350

Total, 1906.. . . .	270,877,350
Total, 1896.. . . .	85,994,400
Increase, 10 years . . .	184,882,950

These were the cigarettes manufactured in the different provinces I have mentioned. With the forbearance of the House I will now give the latest figures that it is possible to obtain of the number that were consumed by the people of Canada. From 1896 down to 1902 the department did not separate cigarettes from cigars and tobacco, and, therefore, the returns do not show any exports of cigarettes from Canada during those years. Commencing then in 1896 the imports into Canada were as follows: