

considerably during the last ten years preferential duties were in force, reaching the highest point in 1840, and the lowest in 1848. The figures indicate that a decrease in exports equal to 25% occurred between 1840 and 1848. During the same period the proportion of exports to the colonies fell from 14.8% to 8.6% of the whole. (*See page 13.*)

In January 1849, the preferential duties in favor of the Colonies were practically abolished. During that year British exports to the Colonies increased \$14,000,000 or 21%. With the exception of the year 1852 the next five years show substantial increases. The figures for 1854 indicating an increase of 159% over 1848. From 1855 to 1884 increases were steady and enormous. The average for the five years 1880 to 1884 being 521% over the last year the preference was in force. 1885 to 1894 the average was 3% less than that between 1880 and '84. Since then increases have been substantial, the total for 1900 being \$67,000,000 in excess of the average for the previous five years, or an increase of 624% over 1848.

As imports and exports are in the main the complement one of the other, there can be little doubt but that the imports of the Mother land from the Colonies during the last ten years the preferential duties were in force, were affected much in the same unfavorable proportion as were her exports.

The decreasing trade between the Mother land and her Colonies during the last ten years preferential duties were in force, and the remarkable increase immediately after these duties were abolished, is strong evidence that such duties tend to defeat the object for which they are imposed. The