

ceive how a continuance of the colonial connexion would have made them more clear-sighted. Let it be remarked, further, that the exports of 1776, which amounted to £1,300,000, cannot be supposed to have given to England a profit of more than 20 per cent.—that is £260,000; and can it be imagined that the administration of such a vast territory would not absorb many times that sum! The extent and above all the progress of the commerce of England with her colonies is greatly exaggerated. Notwithstanding that the English Government constrains the inhabitants of Great Britain to deal with the colonies, and the colonists with the Mother Country—notwithstanding the Custom-house barriers (of late years prodigiously multiplied and strengthened) which separate England from all other nations whatsoever,—the foreign trade of Great Britain has developed itself more rapidly than its colonial, as is proved by the following table:—

	EXPORTS.		
	To the Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
1831.....	£10,254,940.....	£25,909,432.....	£37,164,372
1842.....	13,261,436.....	34,119,587.....	47,381,023

In the two epochs, the colonial trade is only little more than a fourth of the entire trade with all parts. The increase in 11 years is about three millions: it is, however, necessary to remark that the East Indies, to which the principles of Free Trade have been applied, are included to the extent of £1,300,000 in this augmentation, and Gibraltar (which can only be said to furnish a foreign trade with Spain) to the amount of £600,000, so that there remains for the real increase of the trade with her colonies, in an interval of 11 years, but £1,000,000. During this period, despite our tariffs, the amount of the exports of England to France have advanced from £602,688 to £3,193,199. Thus commerce protected has progressed at the rate of 3 per cent. and commerce obstructed (*contrarié*) at the rate of 450 per cent.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE CANADIAN ECONOMIST."

Sir,—The impulse which your ably conducted paper has given to the inhabitants of this country, and the interest which many of the French Canadian origin feel in the discussion of economico-political principles, will be my excuse in requesting you to favor your readers with your opinion on the following questions:—

- 1^o. Is Lower Canada better favored for agricultural than manufacturing enterprise, or *vice versa*?
- 2^o. How for Upper Canada?
- 3^o. What has been the amount of importations yearly since 1832, and what the amount of exports during the same period?—What were the principal articles of exportation produced in Canada, and their value yearly since 1832?
- 4^o. What can be the cause of the non-erection of manufactures in Canada, or of their weak and limited operations?
- 5^o. How many manufactories in Canada, and of what articles?

The deep interest that my friends and myself take in the present state of the commerce and prosperity of the country has induced me to address this letter to you, as your capacity and statistical knowledge of Canada enable you to answer satisfactorily.

I remain, with respect,
Your obedient servant,
G. BOUCHERVILLE.

We have much pleasure in drawing attention to the foregoing letter and in replying to it to the best of our ability, and the more so as the questions are put to us by a French Canadian,—showing the gratifying fact that our journal is drawing the attention of a class to objects of practical utility and social advancement, who have hitherto been accused, and we must admit with too much reason, of the greatest apathy towards every improvement that could enhance their wealth, their influence, and their usefulness to their fellow-creatures.

That age of apathy, however, has, we trust, gone by, to be succeeded by a generous rivalry, the results of which will be increased wealth, happiness, power, and importance, to the whole Canadian family.

The questions mooted by our correspondent cannot, we are sorry to say, be very satisfactorily answered in our present number. They all require statistical data for their elucidation that cannot be provided by individual assiduity or research. In some instances, nothing short of legislative enactment would be sufficient to furnish the information required; and in others, even the legislature itself would prove incompetent to the task, owing to the defective way in which, for statistical purposes, our Custom-house books have been hitherto made up. A brighter day, however, is, we hope, before Canada—a day when the Custom-house, the Post-office, and every other local department, will be made strictly responsible to local authority and supervision, by which means alone can we hope to make them as eminently available for public utility and convenience as human judgment can render them, or their peculiar nature will admit of.

To the first and second questions, we cannot furnish categorical answers. Both the Lower and Upper Provinces are well adapted for agricultural purposes; the latter, in particular, which, we make bold to say, is not to be surpassed in this respect by any portion of

the continent of America. That section of the province now produces wheat quite equal to what is raised in the best wheat-growing States of the American Union, and superior to the average quality of what is raised throughout the Union. Moreover, the general yield of the soil per acre is fully as great as what is obtained in the United States.

In the Lower Province, however, the case is materially different; the picture is by no means flattering. The *quality* of the grain raised is inferior, and the *quantity* far short of what is obtained from the same extent of soil in the Upper Province. The reason for this inferiority it is not incumbent on us at present to inquire into. The fact, however, can be substantiated, and is deserving of the fullest investigation. We may hint here however, in passing, that what strikes an enquirer, even at first sight, as prominent causes for this admitted inferiority, are: first, the want of education on the part of the agricultural population, which renders them incompetent to adopt the improvements that prevail elsewhere, either in the use of farming implements, or in the system of *rotation of crops* which experience and science have pointed out in older countries, where talent has been devoted to agriculture, to be not only advantageous but absolutely essential to a due development of the fructifying properties of the soil; and second, the evil which prevails in this province of splitting up farms into small, contemptible strips.

Agriculture, like every other productive employment, requires capital, skill, and industry, to make it profitable; and, what perhaps is equally important,—farms of at least 100 acres in extent: nothing less will give the skilled agriculturist a fair chance of success.

As to manufactures, we conceive that both provinces are very well adapted for the development of that species of industry; and although we have not hitherto brought any kind of manufacture, except *Ashes*, to that degree of perfection which enables us to compete with other nations in foreign markets, it would be wrong on that account to infer that we have made no progress whatever in manufacturing industry.

We enumerate a few of the leading arts in which we have already made some progress:

1st. Distilling and Brewing.—Montreal alone produces about 4,000,000 gallons of Whiskey annually, and as many more of Table Ale, worth, together, about £750,000; and the quantity produced in the whole Province may be judged of by these facts.

2. There are four Foundries in Montreal, capable of producing steam-engines of the largest dimensions, and we may say machinery generally of the first order. We are not prepared to say how many more there are throughout the province. In addition to these may be enumerated the following crafts, viz.: Cabinet-makers, Tailors, Carpenters, Tinsmiths, Blacksmiths, House-builders, Stone-cutters, Nail-makers, Brick-makers, Carriage-makers, Soap and Candle makers, and a number of other arts and crafts, which employ thousands of our population, and the demand for whose industry is every year on the increase.

But our correspondent, we presume, in putting his question respecting Manufactures, had reference more particularly to manufactures of Wool, Cotton, Silk, and such like. There is a Cotton Factory in full operation at Chambly, and another, we believe, at Sherbrooke; a Woollen Factory recently established in the Upper Province; and a Glass Factory at St. Johns,—in short nothing but apathy among the people of this colony can prevent such establishments growing and multiplying year by year. The country is admirably adapted for them, abounding as it does in water-power and a numerous half-employed population.

As to the woollen manufacture, the Lower Province has been partially devoted to it from its earliest settlement. Every *habitant*, male or female, is clad to this day more or less in the rude fabrics of their own manufacture,—the man in his "etoff du pays," and the woman in her "jupon." Why then is this manufacture, after thirty or fifty years' duration, not in a more advanced state of excellence? The answer to the question is the same as has been given respecting agriculture,—the want of education. Had the rural population been enlightened, they would have seen, long ere this that their labour should be organized and directed; that, instead of each family in a district having its *loom*, which could furnish the family only with apparel of the rudest kind, each district should have had its *factory*, where the population could have been employed, and clothed at less expense and with superior fabrics. Had this been done years ago, the factory or factories in every district of Canada would now be powerful and flourishing; and the men, women, and children, who are now wasting half their life in idleness in the rural districts, would be *skilled operatives*, earning good wages and promoting the welfare of society at large. But it is not yet too late, and we trust our Canadian correspondent will assist us in disseminating these ideas among his countrymen.

To the third question in our correspondent's letter, we are enabled to give a partial answer through the kindness of Messrs. Macdougall & Glass, who have with much liberality allowed us for that purpose to copy the tables attached to their last annual circular, and which will be found subjoined. It embraces a period of eight years, and affords all the information respecting Imports and Exports that can be obtained. We regret that we cannot now go more fully into several of the questions raised by our correspondent, but we trust he will be satisfied with this as an instalment, relying on our furnishing his countrymen with full details according to our success in collecting them:—