



FACTS OF COMMERCIAL INTEREST.

CULLED FROM THE NEWLY ISSUED TRADE RETURNS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1896.

THE daily papers seldom go into the details of the official returns concerning Canada's import and export trade. For this reason THE REVIEW has taken a glance over the returns for the fiscal year 1896, just printed, and subjoins a few statements which may interest merchants, especially the dry goods trade.

In the matter of exports, for instance, Canada's sales abroad last fiscal year totalled \$121,013,852, the largest in this country's history. Of dressed furs were sold \$40,482 worth, and of undressed furs \$1,759,176 worth. The value of the made-up furs sold abroad was \$7,345. Of wool we exported, chiefly to the States, \$823,920 worth, or 3,916,374 pounds, compared with \$1,049,459 worth, or 5,463,161 pounds in 1895, a decreased quantity last year but a better price for it.

Canadian buttons are selling well in the home market this season, although the exports seem to be about stationary; 1895, \$20,349; 1896, \$20,489.

There is a marked increase in the export of ready-made clothing and wearing apparel, showing a demand abroad for specialties made in this market. The exports of this class in 1895 were valued at \$37,487, which in 1896 has increased to \$54,669. Newfoundland takes a good slice of this, but most of it went to the States and Great Britain.

Canadian cottons went abroad last year to the value of \$766,812. This trade tends to expand each year, and the bulk of the output, of course, goes to the China market. The total exports in recent years of Canadian manufactured cottons have been:

1890.....	\$108,822	1893.....	\$371,477
1891.....	159,954	1894.....	549,758
1892.....	322,711	1895.....	546,168

Thus, last year's export was the largest. The value of the shipments to China was \$549,211, although the mills which send them say the margin of profit is slim.

Last year we sold abroad goods classified under the term "woolens," probably tweeds, etc., in the piece, to the value of \$62,393. They went to a great many different countries, as follows: To United States, \$35,476; to Newfoundland, \$18,120; to Great Britain, \$3,829; to Australia, \$1,606; to the West Indies, \$1,524; to Germany, \$1,191, etc.

As to imports, we select a few which pay duty for comparison with the figures of 1895, thus indicating to some extent the trend of

trade. Canada imported cotton manufactures to the value of \$4,651,912, as compared with \$4,209,063 in 1895. Of these in 1896 printed fabrics amounted to \$2,576,379 and in 1895 to \$2,281,762. Fancy goods imports make the following showing: 1895, \$1,502,845; 1896, \$1,469,250, a very slight falling off. Manufactures of flax, hemp and jute were imported: 1895, \$1,333,519; 1896, \$1,528,038. The imports of manufactured furs increased. 1895, \$577,275; 1896, \$622,283. Gloves and mitts imported are stationary at about \$635,000 worth. The imports of hats, caps and bonnets increased: 1895, \$1,195,713; 1896, \$1,243,809. We imported silk manufactures valued at \$2,564,491, against \$2,231,443 in 1895.

The imports of wool and woolens of every description went up considerably: 1895, \$7,933,495; 1896, \$8,723,561. This covers, we observe, increased importations in blankets, cloths, goods part worsted and part woolen, ready-made clothing, etc.

The free goods imported are, in the principal cases, intended as raw materials for our factories, paying no duty as such. They may conveniently be tabulated as follows in quantities:

	1895.	1896.
Wool	7,750,050 lbs.	8,992,244 lbs.
Cotton waste.....	11,598,454 "	5,947,634 "
Cotton wool.....	45,325,832 "	33,479,358 "
Jute cloth.....	8,538,508 yds.	10,235,185 yds.
Jute yarn.....	402,868 lbs.	621,922 lbs.
Crude rubber.....	926,171 "	1,716,923 "

It will be seen that the cotton mills imported less raw material and the woolen, jute and hemp mills more raw material last year than before.

There is a table of the wines, fruits, etc., entered at less rates of duty under the French Treaty which was in force for eight months and a half during the fiscal year 1896. The value of the goods affected by this treaty was only \$284,414, comparatively a small sum, though, of course, the whole year's operations are not given.

One of the demands made by our dry goods importers to the Tariff Commission dealt with the question of small ports of entry. In the list of ports we find the following, where the total Customs duties paid seem small, considering the cost of maintaining a staff: In Ontario, Bowmanville, \$5,895; Morrisburg, \$5,188; Trenton, \$6,718; Whitby, \$5,294. In Quebec the smallest ports are: Gaspe, \$2,909; Perce, \$752; Rimouski, \$2,905; St. Armand, \$3,576, and Sutton, \$4,553. In Nova Scotia, Port Hood, \$360; Margaretsville, \$298; Barrington, \$519, are small ports. In New Brunswick the port collecting the smallest revenue is Bathurst, \$2,824.