

our exports from our own custom-house statistics. There are the best sources we have of information as to our imports, on which accuracy is exacted because they are subject to duty; but there is no such urgency as to our exports. They pass from our side of the lines without much attention from our officers. Modern political economists and statisticians have observed the operation of the same rule in various countries, and regard it as an established axiom that "the amount of export is always less exactly registered than the amount of import because with the former duty is but rarely levied." This rule applies with peculiar force to the ordinary data furnished by the official reports of the commerce and navigation of the United States so far as they refer to Canada.

In 1874 the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics asked the attention of the national Legislature to this subject and repeated his request in 1875. He found it impracticable, if not impossible, to obtain full returns of merchandise exported to the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Our custom-house returns on the Canadian border are necessarily defective, in part for want of legislation requiring persons exporting merchandise by railway-cars or other land-vehicles, which have long been used in the transportation of merchandise across the Canadian borders to file full manifests of such merchandise with the collector of the customs as is required in the case of all exports to foreign countries in vessels. It has been found on close investigation into the facts that in both countries the accounts of imports from each into the other are the more accurate, because "the customs-officers of both are constantly on the alert to see that no dutiable merchandise crosses the border without paying its prescribed impost."

Upon the basis thus irrefutably laid down, it is found that the value of articles of domestic production exported from the United States to Canada in 1874 was \$11,424,566, and in 1875 no less than \$15,660,281, in addition to the amounts shown by our own official records. This enormous amount of over \$27,000,000 consisted chiefly of the products of the manufacturing industry of our people, and I desire to direct to it the special attention of those who fancy an extension of reciprocal trade with Canada would be injurious to the manufacturing population of the United States.

LARGE IMPORTS OF OUR MANUFACTURES.

One of the most efficient and beneficial means of protecting our manufactures would be to encourage the demand for them in Canada. Including the amounts given in the statement of the quantities and values of our domestic exports in the official records of the Bureau of Statistics, and the additions corrected from the reports furnished by the Canadian commissioners of customs, our exports last year of our own productions to the Dominion included books and stationery to the value of \$794,846; cotton manufactures, besides raw cotton, \$1,591,844;