

	Exports.	Imports.	For consumption.
1879.....	\$71,491,255	\$81,964,427	\$80,341,608
1880.....	87,911,453	86,489,747	71,782,349
1881.....	98,290,823	105,330,840	91,611,604

Total. \$257,693,536 \$273,785,014 \$243,735,561

Showing an advance during that period in the foreign trade of the country amounting to more than fifty millions of dollars.

Our imports from the United States have been reduced \$14,608,557. On the other hand, our purchases from France, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Holland, Belgium, the British West Indies, the Spanish West Indies, South America, Newfoundland, China and Japan, Switzerland, South Africa, and other countries have more than doubled as compared with 1877, the total for 1881 being \$12,584,965. In 1881, the total import for home consumption was \$91,611,604.

#### THE BRAZIL TRADE.

The assiduous Consul for Brazil, Mr. Bentley, is endeavoring to obtain the consent of the Dominion Government to the imposition of a duty on coffee imported direct from Brazil via a United States port by Canadian importers. The principle has been recognized in the case of tea imported via San Francisco from China or Japan by Canadian importers that the differential duty did not apply, and we presume that the Government would not by order in Council, or a departmental order, admit that its interpretation of the law in the case of tea was incorrect. It seems necessary, in case a change should be made, that Parliament should be applied to, and it seems not to admit of doubt that whatever may be the rule adopted in the case of coffee, the same must be applied to tea likewise. We need scarcely remind our readers that, as compared with tea, the coffee trade is quite insignificant in amount. In the case of tea, the direct importers through the United States have to compete with rivals who enjoy no special advantages, whereas in the case of coffee, an importer from Brazil via New York has to compete with importers by a subsidized line of steamers. It seems strange that when the demand for a subsidy for the Brazilian line, which was refused a few years ago to the British West Indian Colonies, was pressed on the Government, no proposition was made for an additional protection of 10 per cent. That duty was intended to confer a benefit on direct Canadian importers, to countervail a similar duty in the United States in favor of their own importers. Mr. Bentley now proposes to

change the entire system, and to legislate so as to give further protection to a large subsidized line of steamers at the expense of every tea and coffee importer in the Dominion, except those who patronize the Brazilian steamer for coffee. We cannot imagine that Mr. Bentley would apply one rule to coffee and another to tea; at all events, Parliament will scarcely stultify itself by such legislation.

#### THE CITIZENS' INSURANCE COMPANY.

The report of this Company on another page shows that, notwithstanding the encouraging amount of business transacted in 1881, the Company suffered in common with all others operating in Canada, by the unusually heavy losses of the year. As the report speaks for itself, we shall merely say here respecting one feature of it, that the sale of the Guarantee business will tend to strengthen the position of the Company. Canadian companies are not as yet wholly free from the effects of the terrible conflagrations of 1876 and 1877; it may be well therefore, to take a brief glance at the position of the Citizens' Insurance Company during the last four years. The Insurance Returns show that on the 31st December, 1878, the Company exhibited an advance of \$58,930 during that year; in 1879 there was a retrogression of \$8,152, but in 1880 there was another large advance of \$56,340, a part of which was lost, however, by the retrogression of \$12,778 in 1881. Thus the aggregate results of the four years show an advance of \$94,340, or an average for each year of \$23,585, a fact which shareholders may meditate upon with some degree of satisfaction in these days of slight insurance dividends or none at all.

#### THE NEW SMELTING COMPANY.

Letters Patent have been issued incorporating the Canadian Iron and Steel Company (limited), with headquarters in this city, reference to which has already been made in these columns under the name of the Duryee Smelting Process. The principal feature of this new method for converting iron ores is a petroleum spray, by means of which with a hot blast an intense heat is to be attained at a comparatively small expense. The shaft of the furnace now being erected at Hochelaga is of heavy boiler-plate, lined chiefly with fire-brick; the total length is 120 feet, and the diameter 5 feet, the whole being raised from a horizontal position sufficiently as, when slowly revolving, to cause the crushed mixture of ore and flux to tend or feed gradually towards the cruci-

ble or pot, thus avoiding the crushing incidental to vertical charcoal furnaces when built above a certain height, besides performing the functions of roasting, smelting, puddling, &c., in the one operation. The attempt here is largely experimental, but the promoters, should their promising theory prove practical, will reap a rich return, and deserve the gratitude of the whole community, far and near. Canada has great abundance of rich iron ores, which are too remote from the coal-beds to be profitably converted; but the new process is claimed to be far more economical than even coal immediately at hand. The capital of the company is \$1,000,000. Mr. Geo. H. Patterson, formerly a banker in Galt, Ontario, but resident in this city for the last six years, is the promoter and prime mover in the enterprise. Mr. A. Rhodes, one of the most skilful and scientific metallurgists on the continent, (now that Mr. Geo. H. Holley is no more), is engaged by the Company as superintendent of the works. The first directors are: Messrs. Jas. McLaren of Buckingham, Geo. B. Hall of Quebec, with Robt. Benny, James H. Peck, A. C. Clarke and Geo. H. Patterson of Montreal, and Geo. Duryee of New York. It is expected that the furnace will be in full blast before the end of March. At a meeting held in this city yesterday, Messrs. Robt. Benny, and Jas. MacLaren, were chosen President and Vice-President respectively; with Geo. H. Patterson as Managing Director, and Jno. S. Hall Secretary-Treasurer.

#### AN INSOLVENT EMPIRE.

Turkey has lately compromised with her creditors at 50 cents in the dollar, after a fashion with the Government of the "sick man" of the East; that is, the bondholders—the money lenders of England, Holland, France, Germany and Austro-Hungary—are made to submit to a reduction of about 50 per cent. in the principal due them, while the interest promised for the future is about one-tenth that stipulated in the original bonds. The inducements to lend were the high rates of interest, from 5 to 9 per cent., a nominal return which was never paid.

No new loans have been negotiated since 1879, at which time the registered debt was estimated at about \$950,000,000. To this must be added \$200,000,000 for the Russian war indemnity, a debt of \$60,000,000 secured on the Egyptian tribute, a floating debt of over \$40,000,000, and a loan of \$17,500,000 based on the revenues of Cyprus, and guaranteed by England and France. Since April, 1876, Turkey has paid no interest on her debt. Her general power to pay interest may be inferred,