

a weight which will turn in time the scales of one of the two countries which are likely to bid for Canada's iron and steel trade. United States exports of pig-iron are small, not running into six figures, while British pig-iron exports in 1906 ran into seven figures. America's crude steel exports, on the other hand, run into six figures, while the British exports barely attain five. British rail exports are very heavy, the United States lighter, although their total production is several times that of the British. In wire and nails they are far ahead. In most other lines they are far behind, particularly so in sheets and tin plates.

The appended table of miscellaneous items have practically no counterpart in the American statistics, partly because they cover lines which the United States export, but do not have returned as to tonnage, and partly because they cover lines in which the United States have practically no export trade.

British Iron and Steel Exports.

	Gross Tons.	
	1905.	1906.
Scrap .....	149,060	177,704
Pig iron .....	982,876	1,664,442
Crude steel .....	8,594	11,736
Rails .....	546,569	463,240
Chairs and sleepers .....	78,700	73,363
Other railroad .....	80,493	80,489
Structural material .....	63,965	107,382
Plates, 1/8 and over .....	147,675	200,118
Plates, under 1/8 .....	56,893	74,940
Pipe and fillings .....	218,502	295,302
Galvanized and cor. sheets ....	406,815	443,131
Black plates .....	68,839	65,698
Tin plates .....	354,864	375,414
Hoops, etc. ....	41,980	45,310
Steel bars .....	151,879	198,948
Wrought bars .....	143,309	151,052
Wire .....	81,261	95,119
Nails, screws, rivets .....	24,647	29,460
Miscellaneous .....	261,446	321,147
Totals .....	3,868,367	4,873,996

The United States' total exports in 1906 amounted to 1,353,900 gross tons.

Referring to the census of manufacturers published by the Dominion Government, there is a detailed and interesting statement of Canada's iron and steel products. It is not possible to give these for a later date than 1901.

Canada's Iron and Steel Products.

	Estab-lish-ments.	Capital.	Cost of materials.	Value of products.
Axes and tools ....	21	1,169,607	367,603	1,038,705
Boilers and engines. 59		5,552,862	1,783,915	4,626,214
Bridges, iron and steel .....	6	1,755,379	1,012,563	1,693,000
Cutlery and edge tools .....	7	316,325	82,710	257,275
Dies and moulds ...	3	16,000	9,930	33,600
Foundry and machine shop products ..	315	16,274,645	5,293,248	15,292,445
Gas machines .....	4	29,850	7,899	29,121
Hardware, carriage and saddlery ..	6	418,381	164,774	401,821
Iron and steel products .....	29	9,829,560	3,801,129	6,912,457
Printing presses ..	5	541,064	90,139	362,135
Safes and vaults ...	3	232,610	70,100	225,200
Saws .....	7	419,534	127,685	314,312
Scales .....	8	279,414	92,153	285,240
Screws .....	4	714,586	198,025	385,810
Sewing machines ..	3	1,110,167	342,976	752,308
Wire .....	15	1,599,118	1,060,011	1,693,995
Total .....	517	40,861,164	14,816,891	34,878,402

(To be Continued.)

BIDDING FOR MEXICO'S TRADE.

Next month, the "Georgia," one of the new subsidized steamers, will make her first trip on the Mexican-Canadian route. That the possibilities of the country are generally appreciated is proved by the enterprise of the Canadian Government in granting a subsidy to the new steamship route.

President Diaz is the firm ruler of the Southern Republic. By some, he has been labelled harsh, but under his just and wise ruling, the country has made rapid progress. Mexican mining always has monopolized attention, but of late numerous other industries have been given birth. Mexico will naturally become a great distributing agency. Cattle raising is showing signs of becoming a potent rival of our own Western farmers. On the Northern plateau, where cattle ranching and stock-breeding were originally instituted, there is excellent grazing throughout the year. The Canadian farmer must pray once a year for the Chinook, which mitigates the hardship of the snow, and allows his cattle to graze. Mexico is endowed with an almost perpetual spring, which is an advantage our Western farmer has not. Its soil is very fertile and comprises three-quarters of a million square miles.

There are four important gateways on the northern frontier of Mexico. Nogales, one of them, is the port of entry for the city of Sonora, and the towns of the Pacific coast. Through bills of lading are issued to Nogales from all important points in Canada and the United States. The railways connect the interior of the Republic with the ports of the Gulf of Mexico. Water routes through Veracruz and Tampico handle the greatest part of Mexican trade. The customs collections at Veracruz alone amount to about one-third the total amount collected of the water routes through this city, Tampico handles the greatest part of Mexico's foreign trade.

Eastern Canada has at present no way of reaching the Pacific coast ports of Mexico unless it be with long and expensive journey via Panama. Western Canada is in the same quandary, so far as the Gulf ports and the West Indies are concerned. Eastern Canada will benefit by the recent opening of traffic on the Tehuantepec National railroad. Through lack of transportation facilities, the connection of the port of Coatzacoalcos on the Gulf, and the port of Selina Cruz on the Pacific, have not played any important part in the freight trade. A large sum of money has been spent in the construction of extensive port works, and these will make the National railroad an active competitor of the Panama route. With the completion of these facilities, Eastern Canada should be able to make a successful bid for the Pacific coast trade of Mexico, especially in manufactured articles. British Columbia will have yet another market, being able to send fish and lumber to Eastern and Central Mexico at low freight rates and with expedition. The Mexican Central railroad is completing its extension to Manzanimo with all rapidity. This line will be opened possibly by July, and bring Mexico city within about thirty-six hours of the Pacific. The track lies its whole length through a rich, fertile, and populous country.

The adoption of the gold standard in Mexico, and the rise in the price of silver has given an impetus to Mexican expansion. The gold standard in this case is no myth as in some countries. There are no less than fifty million pesos in circulation and in possession of the banks. The short wheat and corn crops in the country will create a large demand for these staples. The wheat which finds favor in Mexico is No. 2 red, and Canadian red grown east of Port Arthur is well suited to the market. The Mexican Government has reduced its tariff on wheat by one-