

ware, tools, implements, tubing, etc., was not sufficient to overcome the natural advantage which Americans enjoy in being so much nearer to their customers, which enables orders to be filled, we may almost say, "by return of post." While then, it is a fair inference from the Customs returns of 1899 that the preferential tariff has stimulated British imports to some extent, it has not put any effective barrier in the course of that great tide of imports which rolls into Canada from the United States. In 1868-72 the average imports from the States were \$25,356,466, and in 1898 they were \$74,824,923, an increase of \$49,468,457 in the amount of our purchases from Americans. In 1868-72 the average imports from Great Britain were \$44,271,728, and in 1898 they were \$32,043,461, a falling off to extent of \$12,228,267. This apparent discrimination of Canada against Great Britain is very strikingly shown by the following figures which give the total imports, dutiable and free, from the old land and from the States from 1888 to 1898:—

Imports,	Dutiable.	Free.	Total
	1888 to 98.	1888 to 98.	1888 to 98.
	\$	\$	£
From Gt. Britain...	308,430,000	104,243,000	412,673,000
From U. S.	343,781,000	266,473,000	610,254,000
Excess of U. S. over Gt. Britain.....	35,351,000	162,230,000	197,581,000

From 1888 to 1898 the articles entered "free" from the States were 77.50 per cent. of the total of United States imports and, in the same term, the articles entered "free" from Great Britain were only 33.80 per cent. of total British imports. The preferential tariff does not give Great Britain sufficient concession to outweigh the national advantages enjoyed by the United States exporters who have not found the discrimination in favour of the old country any material obstruction to the extension of American trade with Canada. The total duty collected on the imports of 1899 was \$25,157,930, compared with \$21,564,584 in 1898. The percentage of duties in former year on dutiable goods was 29.20, and on total imports 16.65. In 1899 the percentage of duties on dutiable imports was 28.70, and on total imports 16.55. The reduction in percentage on dutiable goods being only half of one per cent. proves that the goods to which preference was given were not a material proportion of the whole imports.

The exports of Canada in 1899 were \$154,083,650, compared with \$158,726,801, a reduction of \$4,643,151. The decrease is mainly accounted for by a falling off in shipments of agricultural products. In manufactures there was an increase of \$855,523, which is an agreeable exhibit.

Altogether, the foreign trade of Canada last year reached a total of \$306,104,708, which exceeds any previous year by \$1,628,972. We close this review by a hope that all the goods imported have been and will be sold at a good profit, and be well paid for, and that the additional revenue from Customs will be wisely expended.

THE WANTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

So much has been said and written of British Columbia, we find it difficult to add aught thereto. But a recent number of the Canadian "Gazette" contains such excellent advice from a resident of Agassiz, B.C., that we feel impelled to use the same as a subject for further comments on British Columbia. The breezy letter of Mr. Andrew Hamilton must make capital material for the emigration agent. It is full of the freshness and vigour of those who dwell near the Pacific coast, it is redolent of the fresh air which sweeps through the great woods and over the great lakes, and waves the grain and grass in the meadows and pasture land of a wonderfully fair province of the Dominion of Canada. Mr. Hamilton says:—

"I read in the 'Canadian Gazette' a paragraph on the Russification of Finland, and if I had time I would write a long letter to you on the subject, not only on the prairies of Manitoba and the great North-West, but—

Still further on and further
Where the sun sinks in the sea.

There are islands and shores that would shelter these denationalised fisher and farming Finns. I hope you will think of Vancouver Island and of the innumerable islands all along the shores of British Columbia, and show forth the loveliness of our shores, as well as of our inland valleys to those who cannot stand the wrench that loss of religious and political liberty in Finland must cause. I was talking to the Norwegian storekeeper here the other day, and he told me what admirable settlers the Finns made, how steady and how sensible these Lutheran people were; and he put the idea into my head that they should be invited to help the farming and fishing industries of this new Province; he added, "they are a sea-faring people, too, and they would do well."

I am getting weary of listening to the complaints of the city-bred youth, and I want to see this beautiful land settled with people who come to wrestle with obstacles that stand in the way of comfortable homes and competence. How glad I should be to look out of my window and see the Finnish farmer ploughing or driving his sheep and cattle to rich pastures of grass and clover instead of miles and miles of half-cleared and undeveloped land! If some of the Finns will send an authorized party of inquirers to spy out the land, I hope they will stay a day or two in the Agassiz Valley, and let me or some other "discreet and learned person" show them round our "fairylane." (No fairies now exist here.) Then go on to Vancouver Island, and visit the capital, and get Mr. Jessop, the immigration agent, to direct them where to obtain farming lands that border on the Pacific, where they could find all they had in Finland and a good deal more—fish, fruit, every kind of vegetable, and room for vast herds of cattle and sheep, though the sheep won't have such a good chance as on the prairies and in our region of the coast range of British Columbia.