

CANADA'S FOREIGN TRADE.

Canada's imports and exports for the last ten years have been as follows:

MERCHANDISE IMPORTS.

	Dutiable.	Free.	Total.
1897.....	\$ 66,242,150	\$ 40,473,055	\$106,715,205
1898.....	73,694,644	51,440,953	125,141,597
1899.....	87,536,085	50,807,337	147,343,422
1900.....	104,200,542	68,452,846	172,653,388
1901.....	105,958,535	71,729,540	177,688,075
1902.....	118,657,496	77,822,634	196,480,130
1903.....	136,792,874	88,017,654	224,810,528
1904.....	148,902,381	94,680,443	243,582,824
1905.....	150,914,668	100,688,332	251,603,000
1906.....	173,027,710	110,236,095	283,263,805

EXPORTS. HOME PRODUCE.

1897.....	\$119,832,973	1902.....	\$196,019,763
1898.....	139,402,279	1903.....	214,401,674
1899.....	132,075,601	1904.....	198,414,439
1900.....	152,818,917	1905.....	190,854,946
1901.....	177,378,855	1906.....	235,483,956

It would be interesting to trace the growth of exports under their several heads. To do so for the whole ten years would take up considerable space. It would be sufficient for present purposes to examine them for 1904-5-6. A fair idea can be obtained from the following table of the development, in each line, for the whole period:

CLASSIFICATION OF EXPORTS.

	1904.	1905.	1906.
Mine.....	\$33,626,739	\$31,932,329	\$35,469,631
Fisheries.....	10,759,029	11,114,318	16,025,840
Forest.....	33,091,922	33,235,683	38,824,170
Annual Produce.....	63,812,117	63,337,458	66,455,960
Agricultural Products.....	37,138,875	29,994,150	54,092,337
Manufacturers.....	19,804,040	21,191,333	24,561,112
Miscellaneous.....	121,708	49,675	84,906
	\$198,414,439	\$190,854,946	\$235,483,956

To many, these figures and others like them, will prove dry and uninteresting; but to others, who study them in connection with the events taking place on all sides of us, they have an interesting story to tell. For example, the great prosperity of our Western wheat growers finds reflection through the increase of over twenty-four millions, or 80 p.c., in the exports of agricultural products in 1906. The steady growth of the manufacturing industry which causes one to notice, in travelling over the country, the building of new factories and plants in many different places, finds reflection in the slow but steady expansion of our exports of manufactured articles. In the large dimensions of our export trade in annual produce, amounting to more than one-fourth of the whole exports, one catches a glimpse of the prosperity of the great butter and cheese trade, of the trade in hams and bacon, and the cattle and hog raising industries. It will be interesting to take some of the principal items and

trace the increase that has occurred in a year.

The chief items are:

	1905.	1906.
Horned cattle.....	\$11,330,964	\$11,650,829
Sheep.....	1,421,715	1,172,340
Wheat.....	12,380,743	33,058,391
Cereal foods.....	1,284,280	1,185,183
Wheat flour.....	5,877,007	6,179,825
Coal, coke, charcoal and cinders.....	4,407,087	4,979,724
Cotton and manufactures of.....	1,173,195	1,331,712
Cod fish.....	2,922,302	3,496,596
Lobsters, canned.....	2,754,598	3,010,203
Salmon, canned.....	1,679,014	4,943,413
Apples.....	2,627,467	4,089,829
Furs and skins, undressed.....	2,358,880	2,414,980
Hides and skins, other.....	2,805,192	3,528,766
Copper.....	4,857,525	7,148,033
Goldbearing quartz, dust, etc.....	15,208,380	12,991,910
Silver ore.....	2,008,778	4,310,528
Agricultural implements.....	2,313,620	2,407,601
Nickel.....	1,185,056	2,166,936
Butter.....	5,930,379	7,075,539
Cheese.....	20,300,500	24,433,199
Bacon and hams.....	12,515,959	12,080,868
Canned meats.....	3,538,976	1,367,593
Deals, spruce and other.....	6,898,769	6,554,612
Planks and boards.....	13,849,275	17,958,025
Wood for wood pulp.....	2,600,814	2,649,866
Wood.....	3,399,158	3,478,150

Each one of the above items calls to mind some particular section or sections of the country where the industry is located. Some have been mentioned already. The mention of "horned cattle," for example, suggests the ranches of the Northwest, and the Ontario farms; "wheat flour" suggests the operations of the great milling companies—Ogilvie's and Lake of the Woods; "coal," the big mining interests in Nova Scotia, and in British Columbia; "cotton" reminds us of the recently formed textile combination with headquarters in Montreal; the various fisheries bring the Fraser River, Newfoundland, the fresh water lakes to mind; "copper" and "nickel," the Sudbury district with its phenomenal development; "silver," brings the latest boom-town, Cobalt, to mind; "gold quartz" furnishes figures that reveal the gradual exhaustion of the known Yukon placer mines; "agricultural implements" brings up the recent action of the Australian Commonwealth in increasing its customs duties, whereby an erstwhile profitable market of our implement makers is threatened; "canned meats" draws attention to the prospectus of an ambitious Western canning establishment which appeared broadcast in several leading Canadian dailies, and so on with the others. Nearly every one suggests something of interest in connection with our industrial development. Taken altogether the items are of great value in showing what measure of success is attending the operation of our fiscal policy. Of course, the home trade is more important than the export trade, but the same statistics are not available for the home trade, and it is the custom to regard the foreign trade as a more or less accurate index to the condition of the domestic trade. Space does not here permit a similar analysis of the import trade. That also is rich in suggestion and interest, and will perhaps be dealt with in a future paper.