

To go no further than Toronto industries, we can trace in the pianos, agricultural implements, heating appliances, bicycles and rubbers, which constitute the chief exports of our factories, the raw materials imported from abroad, duty free or at low rates, and without which we would find it much more difficult to compete in the world's markets.

The returns for the fiscal half year of 1898-99, show a still further increase in this class of imports, indicating even greater industrial activity than in the first part of the year.

#### LINES OF DEVELOPMENT

The importance of a proper development of our export trade can scarcely be overestimated, and warrants a few general observations as to the lines of development that seem most suited to our conditions as a people. It is no less necessary to the nation than to the individual to have a steady occupation and an assured income. For a long time to come, Canada must find her chief source of wealth in the supply of food products, and agriculture must be our greatest industry. While the United States may be expected, under more favorable conditions than now govern, to provide a near and profitable market for not a few products of the farm, we cannot look for an outlet in that direction for such staples as cheese, butter, bacon and wheat. The British market is beyond all doubt the best market for these products. In addition to the steady demand it has the advantage of open ports. We know that the door will never be shut upon our products, and there is therefore every element to induce the investment of farm capital in lines suitable to the British market.

The best opening in that market is for fine food products, and Canada is turning more and more every year to the supply of this class of foodstuff. Manitoba and the Territories must compete still with the wheat of Russia and Hungary, and the cattle of Argentine. The older provinces have for rivals in the dairying business the thrifty agriculturists of Denmark, Holland, Normandy and the Western States, who formerly had a monopoly of the provisions and dairy products supplied to the British market. We have no reason to be ashamed of the progress made in ousting these competitors. Canadian cheese has taken first place and our share of the trade is sixty per cent. of the total. In butter, bacon and poultry the fight for supremacy is only beginning, but American Consuls in Great Britain are already directing attention to the inroads of Canadian foodstuffs on trade hitherto largely supplied from the American market.

Since 1890 the export of bacon and ham has increased from half a million to over eight million dollars. Canadian poultry sold in the London market, at Christmas, only a trifle lower than the best home grown. Year by year advances are made in the various items of the dairy and provision trade, and the ground thus secured is seldom lost again.

Looking at the export trade as a whole, it is evident that the export of "Animals and their produce" is the line that gives the best promise to the Canadian farmer of a steady occupation and an assured income. It is less dependent than grain raising on a favorable season.

The trade returns show that year by year the exports of "Animals and their produce" has expanded steadily, while the export of field has been up and down according as crops were good or poor and prices high or low.