

Making St. John



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New Brunswick has the Second Largest Port in Canada

Has Enjoyed a More Consistent and a Greater Growth Than Any Other Canadian Port

Percentage of Increase From 1914 to 1916 is 329.5; Montreal Shows Only 42.6 Per cent.

From the Table that follows immediately below it is shown that the port of St. John occupies an enviable position in the amount of commodities passing into and out of its harbor. The war has made an immense difference in the total of its trade as may be seen from the fact that it grew from thirty millions in the year to March 31, 1914, to one hundred and thirty millions two years later. So colossal a development is probably unique on this continent or indeed in any part of the world. The only thing that any way resembles it is the mushroom growth of the gold cities of California, Australia and the Yukon. There is, however, this difference that in the latter case the sudden growth was followed in most cases by a sudden decay whereas in the case of St. John this development has every appearance of permanence. A comparative statement of the imports and exports of the principal Canadian deep sea ports follows:

TABLE 1 Comparative Statement of imports and exports through certain Canadian ports for the three years to March 31, 1916.

PORTS	Year to March 31, 1916.		
	IMPORTS	EXPORTS	TOTAL
Montreal	147,638,022	173,436,739	321,069,861
St. John	11,165,463	120,042,590	131,208,053
Halifax, N. S.	9,873,799	26,330,211	36,204,010
Vancouver	20,167,953	15,031,892	35,199,845
Quebec	12,145,506	3,577,012	15,722,518
Year to March 31, 1915.			
Montreal	102,198,355	83,489,321	185,687,676
St. John, N. B.	9,112,916	43,872,932	51,928,978
Halifax, N. S.	10,709,544	16,067,405	26,776,949
Vancouver	25,055,487	14,113,198	39,168,685
Quebec	11,801,600	6,739,109	18,540,709
Year to March 31, 1914.			
Montreal	141,728,705	90,433,167	232,161,872
St. John, N. B.	9,373,675	21,039,863	30,413,538
Halifax, N. S.	11,546,554	18,803,026	30,349,580
Vancouver	37,628,156	15,239,716	52,867,872
Quebec	14,599,652	8,947,322	23,546,974

An analysis of this Table shows that the huge increases indicated are in exports. The imports have remained about the same for each of the three years in the case of St. John, except that in 1916, they showed a sharp upward tendency. This is a very healthy sign and proves that the trade of the port is not entirely in the direction of war supplies. The figure of \$9,373,675 for the last year before the war is a fair average figure of the imports into St. John for some years past, and that figure did not greatly vary though it showed a half million decline for the year during which war conditions for a period of some eight months existed. In the first year for which complete war conditions exist, that for the year to March 31, 1916, the imports show an upward leap of over two million dollars, a very handsome increase some part of which however, must in fairness be attributed to the receipt of raw materials of munitions of war. It will further be seen that St. John's great rival in the Maritime gates of entry, Halifax, has shown no

Chart A The following Chart shows the import business of St. John for the years ending March 31, 1914-1915-1916.

1914 — Imports, \$9,373,705.
1915 — Imports, \$9,112,916
1916 — Imports, \$11,165,463.

such development. Though the import trade of Halifax was considerably greater than St. John in each of the two years to March 31, 1915, yet in 1916 shot ahead to an amount of over twelve hundred thousand dollars. This is a remarkable development and one of which St. John may well be proud.

But it is when we come to exports that the whole astonishing difference between the two ports becomes evident. In the year before the war St. John showed exports amounting to \$21,039,863. In the first year for which war statistics are available this amount was more than doubled reaching the remarkable sum of \$43,872,932. But it is in the third year during the whole of which the war was in progress that we get figures that are almost unbelievable if they were not taken from the Government Blue Books. In that year the figures of exports are almost treble the amount of the previous great advance, attaining the abnormal sum of \$119,490,818. This is a record which St. John could not

Chart B This Chart illustrates the export business of the St. John port for the years 1914-1915-1916. Years ending March 31.

1914 — Exports, \$21,039,863.
1915 — Exports, \$43,872,932
1916 — Exports, \$119,490,818.

have hoped to attain before many years of peaceful development if the war had not intervened. Comparing these figures with those of Halifax we find that in 1914, St. John has twenty-one millions against nearly nineteen millions for Halifax. In 1915, Halifax fell to sixteen millions while St. John leaped to forty-three millions. In 1916, Halifax reached twenty-six millions while St. John attained the stupendous figure of one hundred and nineteen millions. In other words the export of St. John for the first year during which complete war figures are available is more than four and one half times that of Halifax. The contrast in growth is so abnormal as to constitute a record and one that rebounds entirely to the energy and far sighted vigor of the inhabitants of St. John. The net consequence of this unprecedented rise is to place St. John in the position of the second largest exporting port of the Dominion, far and away above any other with the sole exception of Montreal.

Chart C The following Chart illustrates the total port business imports and exports of the port of St. John for the years 1914-1915-1916. Years ending March 31.

1914 — Imports and Exports, \$30,413,538.
1915 — Imports and Exports, 52,985,848.
1916 — Imports and Exports, \$130,656,281.

See table 5 for 1917 Harbor Figures.

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