

commensurate with that of the Province of which we form a part, with this exception, that we have had the control of the great staple trade, and consequently our imports are subject to less fluctuation proportionately, or ought to be, than that of other localities unprovided with such a steady agent for consumption.

The following table of Imports and Exports have been compiled from the Public Accounts. It does not, however, measure the whole Import trade of Ottawa, because a very large per centage pays duty in Montreal, Prescott, or Brockville, and will not appear on the Collector's Returns at this Port.

*Statement of Imports and Exports, and amount of Duties collected at the Port of Bytown, now the City of Ottawa, from the year 1854 to 1865, both years inclusive.*

Year.	Exports.	Imports.	Gross Duties col.
1854.....	\$140,000 00	260,501 65	37,287 38
1855.....	132,184 25	211,147 92	27,369 05
1856.....	106,440 02	334,923 92	36,624 25
1857.....	36,335 85	283,527 65	35,883 30
1858.....	88,592 00	320,156 00	43,523 85
1859.....	118,157 00	401,756 00	60,386 32
1860.....	398,225 00	381,329 00	62,760 96
1861.....	102,192 00	464,146 00	67,418 97
1862.....	271,624 00	442,813 00	45,393 19
1863.....	318,772 00	402,366 00	42,880 27
Half year 1864.....	166,410 00	264,141 00	30,208 05
1865.....	185,927 00	378,675 00	54,860 17

The change in the Fiscal year, commencing in 1864, necessarily leaves the last six months unaccounted for. But the Returns, as made, show most extraordinary fluctuations, which must depend on some cause, or be governed by some agent or law, because trade is no matter of mere caprice. Starting, in 1854, with an expenditure of \$140,000, and an Import of \$260,501, in 1863, we have