

1873. JULY. 1873

## ALL DEPARTMENTS

CONTINUE

WELL AND FULLY ASSORTED.

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## THE COMMERCE OF CANADA.

NO. III.

Not the least important feature of a nation's commerce, is the countries with which annual exchanges are made. It depends much on the position, character and legislation of the countries, whether the trade of others with them will expand or contract, and as the individual business man rejoices to add new and profitable customers to his list, so nations have cause for satisfaction when they add to the number of countries with which they deal, and the markets which absorb their productions.

The following table shows at a glance the countries with which Canada does business. It contains our total transactions during 1871-2, (imports and exports added) with the relative per centage of trade carried on with each respectively:—

COUNTRIES.	AMOUNT.	P. C.
Great Britain.....	\$87,538,698	47.17
United States.....	66,114,785	35.63
Newfoundland & P. E.		
Island .....	3,694,762	1.99
B. West Indies .....	3,447,938	1.86
Spanish do. ....	2,909,420	1.57
France .....	1,911,486	1.03
Germany .....	972,989	.53
South America .....	752,207	.40
Spain .....	455,035	.25
China & Japan .....	386,612	.21
French West Indies...	309,453	.16
Belgium .....	265,121	.14
Holland .....	200,034	.11
Other West Indies. ....	107,156	.06
Other Countries.....	867,014	.46
Goods not produce of		
Canada.....	12,744,125	6.87
Short Returns.....	2,887,056	1.56
	\$185,563,891	100.00

The foregoing figures do not include British Columbia and Manitoba, whose trade was respectively \$3,679,175 and \$1,105,713, making the Dominion's total volume of trade for the year, as we stated in our last issue, \$190,348,779.

The great bulk of Canadian commerce, as these statistics testify, continues to be carried on with Great Britain and the United States. They absorb within a fraction of 83 per cent of it—a fact not so satisfactory for the Dominion as a more general distribution would be, for it renders us too dependent upon them and their markets. Our next largest customers are the B. N. A. Provinces (Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island) and the British West Indies, and it is worthy of remark that no less than \$94,681,398 of our trade last year was transacted with British subjects either in the mother country or the colonies.

With the exception of a falling off to the extent of 16 per cent in our transactions with Spain, (as compared with the previous year) and of 17 per cent with Cuba and Porto Rico—the two West Indies belonging to that power—there has been no other decline worthy of notice. The revolution in Spain and the insurrection in Cuba, are no doubt the cause of this result, and but for these circumstances, the expansion manifest in our trade with almost all the other countries mentioned above, would in all probability have marked our dealings with them. Our transactions with Great Britain and the United States increased during the twelve months, respectively 19 and 10 per cent. The largest increases were as follow: Germany 64 per cent, France 42, and the French West Indies 40 per cent. For several years past, our importations from Germany and France have steadily increased, and our annual dealings are beginning to assume considerable importance. There was an expansion with the British West Indies of 17 per cent.

Let us now proceed to examine how much each country sold to, and bought from us during 1871-2. In order to do this, we append the following statement of our imports and exports to and from each during the twelve months:—

COUNTRIES.	IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.
Great Britain.....	\$61,900,702	\$25,637,996
United States.....	34,217,969	31,896,816
France .....	1,809,244	1,102,242
Germany .....	936,757	36,232
Spain.....	429,951	25,084
Holland .....	193,658	6,376
Belgium .....	204,344	60,777
B. N. A. Provinces	1,968,587	1,726,175
B. West Indies...	1,128,236	2,319,702
Spanish do. ...	1,276,739	1,632,681
French do. ...	35,906	273,547
Other do. ...	6,934	100,222

South America.....	81,176	671,031
China and Japan..	386,612	
Other Countries...	345,061	521,953
Est. Short Returns		2,887,056
Goods not produce of Canada.....		12,744,125
Add Manitoba.....	1,020,172	85,541
Add B. Columbia..	1,767,068	1,912,107

Total.....\$107,709,116 \$82,639,663

Our commercial relations are well brought out by thus placing our imports and exports side by side. In no cases except those of the British, Spanish and French West Indies, South America and "other countries," was the balance of trade in favour of the Dominion. On the other hand, it was in the case of Great Britain immensely against us, and we regret to observe that whilst we are increasing very considerably our annual purchases from Germany, France, Spain, Holland and Belgium, they purchase only to a very trifling extent from us in return. While we buy most largely from the mother country, we sell most to the United States. This will be seen at once by reference to the above figures, which show that Great Britain supplies 59 per cent of our total imports as against 32 per cent from our American neighbors, whilst the latter take from us 39 per cent of our productions as against 31 per cent taken by the former. The United States, therefore, continues to be the principal market for the products of this country.

Taking our total imports and exports, the difference between them in 1871-2 was excessive, being of the value of \$25,069,453. A wide and continuous difference between imports and exports, is apt to produce more or less commercial disarrangement, and the gulf of twenty-five millions between the imports and exports of the Dominion last year, was undoubtedly the chief cause of the stringent condition of money for the past nine months.

The Dominion exchequer has been kept well filled by customs duties for several years past. The sanguine estimates of the Finance Minister have been again and again exceeded. The increase in customs in Ontario taking the two years of 1871 and 1872, has been over fifty per cent. The following is the ratio of increase in the four principal provinces during the last two years:—

PROVINCE.	INCREASE, '71.	INCREASE, '72.
Ontario.....	37.98 pr. ct.	15.98 pr. ct.
Quebec.....	22.69 "	3.77 "
Nova Scotia...	17.41 "	0.74 "
N. Brunswick.	19.43 "	5.14 "

These figures tell their own tale, and in view of them it is easy to understand how, notwithstanding a largely and rapidly increased annual expenditures, the finances