

THE TRADE OF CANADA WITH GREAT BRITAIN AS COMPARED WITH UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

There is no subject being more widely discussed than the prospective change in the fiscal policy of Great Britain. The press of England, the Imperial Colonies, the United States, Germany and France teem with editorials discussing this topic, the views expressed being taken from every standpoint. The varieties of opinion are almost bewildering, certainly are confusing when regarded *en masse*. To derive any advantage from the study of such a tangled web of arguments and such a mass of statistics it is necessary to classify them into groups. We present a table exhibiting the total imports of the British Empire from all countries, with their respective percentages to the total. These and other data that will appear later are published not in support of or in opposition to any fiscal theory, but as raw material for study, out of which may be woven whatever their nature suggests.

In considering statistics relative to a country's foreign trade it is desirable to approach them, as far as possible, in a judicial spirit, with a mind free from pre-conceptions, prepared frankly and honestly to recognize the relevance and the argumentative force of the facts presented.

One prejudice needs to be especially guarded against, which is, that imports are necessarily less advantageous to a country than exports, that the former drain a land of its financial strength while the other necessarily add to its monetary resources. Whoever cherishes this conception of the two sections of foreign trade, or the reverse one, when fiscal returns are laid before him is a judge who has decided the case before hearing the evidence. It is a sound, common sense view of all forms of trade that they each are conducted by traders to make a profit. There is no such thing as "National Trade," trade that is by a nation, as such. The Commerce of each country is the aggregate of myriads of transactions by thousands of separate, independent merchants and manufacturers, who, universally, sell goods in any market, home or foreign, where a profit can be reaped, and who buy goods anywhere, from any producer, home or foreign, in order to sell such goods at a profit wherever a buyer can be found. "Trade follows the Flag" is a fiction. Trade cares nought for flags, its loadstar, its irresistible magnet is, profit. Were this fact recognized discussions of fiscal affairs would be less confused, less eloquent, but more rational.

The following exhibits the imports of each section of the Empire, by which it is shown that out of a total import trade of the whole British Empire amounting to \$3,904,769,605, \$2,474,024,419 is done with foreign countries. These figures will give an impressive idea of the magnitude and the intricacy

of the problem of Inter-Imperial trade based on preferential tariffs.

The returns of Canada's imports have a number of points special interest now the Dominion is celebrating its 36th birth-day. One is, that, since 1869 Canada has only increased her purchases in Great Britain by \$13,441,602, while her purchases in the United States increased by \$95,336,775. Another point is, that Canada has been able to buy \$135,389,425 more foreign goods than in 1869 and yet advance enormously in wealth. The total trade of the Dominion with Great Britain and the United States, at several periods, was as follows:—

Year.	Trade with Gt. Britain. \$	Percentage of Total Trade.	Trade with U. S. \$	Percentage of Total Trade.
1873....	107,266,624	49.3 p. c.	89,808,204	41.3 p. c.
1879....	67,288,848	44.3 "	70,904,720	46.7 "
1883....	99,197,682	44.8 "	97,701,056	44.2 "
1893....	107,228,906	44.6 "	102,144,986	42.5 "
1902....	166,526,283	40.1 "	192,012,434	46.5 "

The above figures bring out very clearly the movements of our trade respectively with Great Britain and with the United States. Commencing in 1873 with a considerable advantage in favour of Great Britain, the trade in 1883 comes to an equality with that with the States. Since 1883 the portion of the foreign trade of Canada done with Great Britain has fallen from 44.8 per cent. of her total trade, while the trade with the United States has risen from 44.2 per cent. of the total to 46.5 per cent. No following the flag is shown by these figures. Now if we turn to our table of imports we shall see in which feature mainly this movement went against Great Britain. The year 1880 is a good point to start from as that was the first year a fiscal policy was in operation which, practically, has remained in force ever since. In 1880 the British imports were \$34,461,224, against \$29,346,948 American, the percentages to total being 48.01 compared with 40.88. The official returns of foreign trade show that since 1880 the total imports into Canada have increased by \$131,009,246, of which increase Great Britain's share was \$14,744,848, or, only 11 per cent., while America's share of the increase in our imports since 1880 was \$91,467,805, or, 70 per cent. The British percentage of our total imports fell from 48.01 in 1880 to 24.77 in 1902, and the American percentage, in same period, rose from 40.88 to 59.58. The foregoing will be enough to show how the main streams of trade are flowing so far as Canada, Great Britain and the United States are concerned.

FRATERNAL INSURANCE not overdone with fraternity.—At Walton, Yorkshire, a member of the Order of Independent Foresters being sick, was on the pay roll. He was seen to give a trifling service to his wife in her little shop, for which he was expelled from the Order! He appealed to the Court, and was re-instated and given his sick pay, so the law was more friendly than the "Fraternal" brethren.