

was not so unfavorable, although the lines dependent upon building and contracting suffered very severely, as no building was undertaken until after midsummer, and heavy undertakings of every kind were postponed until after the return of the troops from the front.

The recovery in the city's trade after the close of the rebellion was very marked, but it was also rather misleading. In many lines of trade which had been staggered and partially dormant, the bulk of the business of the year was crowded into the last four months of it, and thus an abnormal activity was created. Under ordinary circumstances this would have introduced some recklessness, but after three years of depression, people in business were too cautious to allow themselves to be thus misled, and no evil results followed.

The year's business as summed up in the annual statistical report presented to the Board of Trade was as follows :

Wholesale mercantile	\$13,848,075
Retail mercantile	5,500,000
Mixed mercantile	850,000
Manufactures	2,200,000
Building and contracting	325,000
Unclassified institutions	600,000
Total	\$23,333,075

The aggregate value of the exports of the year was \$2,180,820 and represented by flour, wheat, oats, barley, flax, linseed oil, oil cake, potatoes, eggs, butter, hides, furs, fresh fish, etc.

The business of 1886 will be found in detail in the following reports, presented to and adopted by the Board at the last Annual Meeting.