

## B. C. CUSTOMS RETURNS.

The following is a summary of the customs returns for the four ports of the Province of British Columbia for the month of October, 1891:

## IMPORTS.

	VICTORIA	VANCOUVER	WESTERN R.	NANAIMO	TOTAL
Dutiable Goods	\$168,810 00	\$ 61,993 00	\$ 20,251 00	\$ 26,199 00	\$288,196 00
Free Goods	26,973 00	15,871 00	1,979 00	1,592 00	46,415 00
Total Imports	\$195,783 00	\$ 77,864 00	\$ 22,230 00	\$ 27,791 00	\$323,668 00

## REVENUE.

Duty Collected	\$ 57,720 00	\$ 22,171 35	\$ 9,529 18	\$ 7,167 05	\$ 96,587 58
Other Revenue	3,761 16	2,980 92	87 88	701 12	7,531 08
Total Collections	\$ 61,481 16	\$ 25,152 27	\$ 9,617 06	\$ 7,868 17	\$104,119 66

## EXPORTS.

The Mine	\$ 35,173 00	\$ 908 00	\$ 17,835 00	\$281,828 00	\$365,701 00
The Fisheries	65,698 00	119,867 00	115,096 00	.....	1,179,511 00
The Forest	1,328 00	12,676 00	3,717 00	.....	51,951 00
Animals and their produce	59,673 00	5,097 00	811 00	.....	65,581 00
Agricultural	221 00	36 00	10 00	237 00	506 21
Manufactures	1,015 00	8,965 00	1,908 00	1,000 00	18,929 00
Miscellaneous	1,676 00	.....	238 00	.....	4,311 00
Total Exports	\$711,456 00	\$177,160 00	\$199,585 00	\$286,065 00	1,617,563 00

\$1,325 Million.

## TACOMA TRADE.

The Tacoma West Coast Trade says, "Business continues seasonably active in all lines this week, and collections are reported to be very fair. Railers generally are making an excellent showing of goods for the holiday trade and there are prospects of a good movement in the usual run of novelties for the next few weeks. Staples are in active request and in groceries an increased business in all lines of provisions and staples. In hardware the stove trade has been of fair proportions and dry goods are moving well in seasonable lines. Notwithstanding the fact that the fall trade in shingles and lumber have closed, there is still a good eastern movement and large consignments of shingles are said to have gone into the territory opened up by the Burlington route within the past few weeks. This, however, is not an extremely favorable feature, as developments clearly indicate that manufacturers are marketing their product at prices below the actual cost of production in many instances, and the supplying of these markets at such figures will mitigate against the possibility of enjoying to the fullest extent the active demand which present indications seem to point to for next spring. Cargo trade is only moderately active, though in general the export business of this port continues good. The increased price of wheat has led to more interest in that commodity, and the prospects of the agricultural sections east of the mountains are improved in proportion. The movement of wheat to this city since August 1st has reached 5,400 carloads, as against 4,013 for the corresponding period of 1895.

## THE BASIS OF BUSINESS REFORM.

There is a good deal said about reform in business and reform in politics and through politics, and these various ideas are supported by many good people who believe that good can be accomplished by force, by legal enactments that deal with purely moral questions, by a public sentiment that will hold in check the natural proclivities of individuals for immoral doing. It may be that wrong may be restricted by such action, but it is clear that it does not restrict in many instances, and that heretofore the basis for reform has not been found. The fact is, all true reform must come by the individual choice and not by force in society, because the latter will never be found adequate to deal with moral questions.

We talk about the dishonesty of the business man, and some one proposes to restrict that dishonesty by legislation that says a man shall not be dishonest. Will that solve the problem and provide the remedy? Most assuredly not; there must be an individual conscience at work in the matter before genuine reform can be looked for. In the various attempts made to secure the prohibition of the liquor traffic by legislation, it has been undoubted failure. Such a reform cannot be controlled by force; it must be controlled by sentiment, and it will never be controlled by any other force. The states that have worked under prohibition laws as regards the liquor traffic, have violated moral sentiment by permitting themselves to become violators of the law because their sympathies were not in sympathy with it. The public conscience is injured as a result and it is easier for the rising generation

to violate law than it was before such a statute was adopted. The presence of "blind pigs" in nearly all prohibition towns shows that as the law the prohibitory statute is working evil at the same time that it is working good; that is while it may prevent this man from drinking, it may cause two others to drink because of the temptation to do something that the law says shall not be done. In this way evil is done and it must be taken from the good before the balance is struck; most reformers of this class assume that the result of a prohibitory law is uniformly beneficial. It is not, and this is written without an atom of sympathy with the liquor traffic. It is simply looking at a thing as it is, and not as we would like it to be.

When the moral force of a community is rightly developed it will not be necessary to have prohibitory liquor laws, because the people will not need them; the matter will regulate itself, and it will be difficult to do very much along that line until people are sufficiently moral to make it necessary.

The same principle applies in the case of the business man. A statute forbidding dishonesty in the representation of goods would amount to nothing, because it would not be practicable. It could not be enforced, because it could not be proven that the dealer is dishonest in many cases. Dishonesty in business must be based on individual sentiment. The honest man will not be dishonest, and instead of trying by legislation to keep men from being dishonest, the effort should be rather to make them honest. The moral side of man is not developed with proper understanding of what man is. His nature is not understood in any unscientific sense, and he is not made moral by intelligent means. He intends to be moral but he hasn't mastered the moral principle sufficiently to receive its full impression, and so yields to an impulse of dishonesty in principle quite easily. The basis of moral reform is individual reform.—*Minneapolis Commercial Bulletin*.

## THE DISTRESS OF THE RICH IN ENGLAND.

"Pity the sorrows of a poor old man," is being changed in England to, pity the sorrows of the rich. The condition of the landed classes in Great Britain, is, for them, distressing, but not a few of us would not object to stand in their shoes. The Duke of Devonshire, for instance, has issued a piteous letter to the people of Buxton, Derbyshire, where he has great possessions, lamenting his inability to lend as much aid to local institutions as he and his predecessors have done. His income, he declares,