

the settlement of this valley has been the work of a generation—of a day. There are those who saw the Northwest when it did not contain 5,000 inhabitants, and are now living to see it teeming with a population of five millions, or almost double our entire population when we declared our independence of Great Britain. Its commerce has been equally sudden in growth and wonderful in extent.

Who will not be startled on being told that the commerce of Michigan has become nearly equal to that of all Canada? Yet, incredible as it may seem, it is true. But Michigan is the child of one generation; and in our own day her population has risen from five to nearly five hundred thousand, whilst the population of Canada is more than three times that of this youthful State, and, having the experience of two centuries, she even now languishes as with premature decline.

The following is a comparative view of the commerce of Canada and Michigan, in respect to certain leading exports, for the year 1847:

	Canada exported.	Michigan exported.
Flour, bbls.	928,061	933,179
Wheat, bushels	925,012	601,688
Lumber, in feet	76,913,735	73,842,000
Shingles	14,744,000	26,633,000
Aggregate exports for 1847 (unknown)		\$7,119,832

We have not the means for determining, in figures, the aggregate exports of Canada for the year 1847, but, from such information as we have been able to obtain, they are believed to have been much less than those of Michigan; but the imports of the former for the same year are known to have been greater than those of the latter. Furthermore, the trade of Canada has been, of late years, steadily declining, and has reached a point of great depression; whilst that of Michigan, as of all the Northwestern States, has been steadily increasing.

There are now eight States immediately connected with the navigation of the lakes whose commerce, to some extent, might, if permitted, seek an outlet to the ocean through the St. Lawrence—Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. They were estimated to contain in 1846 a population of 8,877,456, or nearly half that of the whole Union, of which 2,928,925 depended upon the lakes for reaching a market. Much information upon this subject is contained in the very valuable report to the Secretary of War from the Topographical Bureau of December 10, 1847, which presents a view of the lake commerce up to the year 1846. We have drawn upon this source for a few important statistics, and do not doubt that they may be relied on as mainly correct, since they are based upon detailed reports from the various collection ports and districts, which exhibit the kinds and quantities of which the commerce consists. We have been also kindly furnished by Colonel Abert, of the Topographical Bureau, with some facts and figures touching the commerce of the lakes at a much later period; and, as they are believed not yet to have been published, they are presented below, in a consolidated form, in connexion with those for a former year:

Lake tonnage for 1846 was, steam.....	60,825
Do.....do.....do...sailing.....	46,011
Total for 1846.....	106,836