

of accidents has been uniform, and that what is true of the year is true of the month. There has been no big railway collision, no great mining explosion, to account for it. It is simply the fulfilment of a principle, upon which we laid stress from the first, and to which the leaders of the trade unions adhered. Unfortunately, their representatives in Parliament were half-hearted and lukewarm.

THE YEARS' TRADE RETURNS, 1899.

The Influence of the Preferential Tariff.

Although the usual voluminous report of the Department of Trade and Commerce for the year closed on 30th June last is not yet issued, we have statistics before us of an official nature from which we are able to obtain a good view of the year's trade, 1898-99. For some details of interest we shall have to wait awhile. The system of granting a preference allowance of 25 per cent. on goods of British origin involves an enormous amount of extra labour at the Custom Houses of the Dominion, so that the work of collating and arranging the Customs returns, which has to be done at Ottawa, has been so greatly increased that any delay in issuing the final, the complete returns is very excusable. The past year's Customs returns are of especial interest, as being those of the first complete year under the preferential tariff, undisturbed by prior engagements, or by anticipations of a coming change. The following includes the whole of the dutiable imports into Canada in 1898 and 1899, classified, and the increase or decrease in 1899 is shown compared with 1898:—

	1899.	1898.	Increase or decrease
	\$	\$	\$
Malt and other liquors	1,480,134	1,212,403	inc. 267,731
Books, papers, &c.	2,367,670	2,637,398	inc. 330,222
Breadstuffs and foods	2,662,902	2,498,154	inc. 164,748
Bicycles, &c.	801,886	862,210	dec. 60,334
Brass & copper goods	501,473	424,032	inc. 77,441
Iron & steel goods, &c.	16,362,189	13,375,700	inc. 2,986,489
Cotton goods	5,929,730	4,677,908	inc. 1,251,822
Fancy goods	1,858,005	1,810,326	inc. 47,679
Flax	1,698,261	1,171,960	inc. 526,301
Hats, bonnets, &c.	1,465,777	1,399,084	inc. 66,693
Leather goods	1,664,932	1,627,975	inc. 36,957
Silk	3,715,661	2,628,458	inc. 1,086,603
Gold & silver goods	995,310	860,858	inc. 134,452
Glass goods	1,322,190	1,161,375	inc. 160,815
Drugs and Oils	3,932,320	3,318,450	inc. 613,870
Vegetable seeds, &c.	636,251	701,276	dec. 65,025
Wood manufactures	746,032	630,856	inc. 115,176
Woollen goods	9,661,173	7,945,730	inc. 1,715,443
Coal	3,665,521	3,145,592	inc. 519,929
Sugar	6,611,569	5,186,178	inc. 1,425,391
Tobacco	251,864	667,521	dec. 405,657
Fruits	2,390,959	2,282,570	inc. 108,389
Furs	646,506	436,047	inc. 210,459
Other dutiable goods	17,358,250	13,632,553	inc. 3,725,707
Total dutiable goods	\$87,536,085	\$73,694,644	inc. \$13,841,441
Coin and bullion	4,677,636	4,389,123	inc. 88,513
Free goods	59,807,337	51,446,953	inc. 8,360,384
Total Imports	\$152,021,058	\$129,530,720	inc. \$22,490,338

The point of most interest in regard to the imports last year is whether the preferential tariff which gives a reduction of 25 per cent. on British goods has been effectual in enlarging the purchases of Canada in the British market, as compared with her purchases in the

United States in the same period. The total increase in imports last year of dutiable goods was \$13,841,441. The increases in such articles as are not sent from Great Britain, such as coal, \$510,929; breadstuffs, \$164,748; wood, \$115,176; sugar, \$1,425,391; fruits and furs, \$318,848; and other dutiable goods not of British origin, \$3,725,707, amount in the aggregate to \$6,269,799. If this sum is deducted from the total increase in dutiable goods, which was \$13,841,441, we get a balance left of \$7,571,642 as the gross amount of the increased imports last year which could have been sent from Great Britain. If we turn to the table giving the imports from Great Britain in 1898 and 1899, we find the following to be the principal items of increase:—

British Imports.	1899.	1898.	Incr. 1899.
	\$	\$	\$
Liquors	791,996	708,978	83,018
Cotton goods	2,561,027	2,169,058	391,969
Linen	762,936	634,552	128,384
Silk	246,604	145,789	100,815
Woollen	5,157,898	4,722,834	435,064
Hardware	298,551	331,302	67,249
Haberdashery	697,607	677,382	20,225
Oils	351,885	179,920	171,965
Paper	194,483	177,327	17,156
Teas, &c.	881,379	759,414	121,965

The United States returns show that in some goods we import from that country there was a considerable increase last year in those which compete with those of British make and those made in Canada, such as the following:—

Imports from U.S.	1899.	1898.	Incr. 1899.
	\$	\$	\$
Agricultural Imports	1,215,914	641,492	574,422
Electric and other goods	393,018	279,121	113,897
Hardware	823,256	657,514	165,742
Sewing and type machines	197,361	176,748	20,613
Steel bars and rails	1,493,592	1,245,680	247,912
Books, maps, &c.	782,324	664,945	117,379
Carriages and parts of	453,745	172,173	281,572
Boats and shoes	391,758	265,158	126,600

A comparison of the above tables justifies the conclusion that, as regards textile goods, the preferential tariff has stimulated the importation of British manufactures. On the other hand, the Americans have been able to increase their importations into Canada of such metal goods as are classed as "hardware," including saws, tools, tubes, with other small iron and steel goods. Of such goods Great Britain sent us \$398,551 in June, and the United States \$823,256. The decline of British imports of this class is very marked, and it corresponds with the increase of American made goods, as the following shows:—

IMPORTS OF TOOLS, IMPLEMENTS, &c.	1898.	1899.	1897.
	\$	\$	\$
Great Britain	128,291	96,929	39,503
United States	3,829,285	405,124	402,730
British tubing	134,896	107,722	39,983
American	76,029	248,767	347,372

The intention to change the record of this class of trade by encouraging British imports was a patriotic step, but the concession to British makers of hard-