

TORONTO TRADE FIGURES.

According to the bulletin of the Board of Trade the imports at Toronto for March, 1895, were of the value of \$1,708,606, namely, dutiable goods, \$1,288,535; free goods, \$397,845; coin and bullion, \$17,226, and the total exports, \$373,657. In the same month of the previous year the figures were: Dutiable goods, \$1,105,784; free goods, \$393,175; coin and bullion, \$16,571; total, \$1,515,530, and the exports, \$249,241. There is thus a difference of \$312,592 in favor of March, 1895, in the aggregate outward and inward trade. We append our customary comparison of the chief items of imports:—

DUTIABLE IMPORTS.

	March, 1895.	March, 1894.
Cotton, and manufactures	\$160,857	\$111,037
Fancy goods	60,697	21,149
Hats, caps and bonnets	50,861	48,636
Silk, and manufactures of	75,726	62,252
Woolen manufactures	226,187	209,119
Total dry goods	\$574,328	\$452,193
Brass and manufactures of	\$27,571	\$6,152
Copper, "	552	1,020
Iron and steel "	100,065	83,752
Lead, "	10,740	7,171
Metals and composition	9,392	8,531
Total metal goods	\$148,320	\$106,626
Books and pamphlets	27,571	31,768
Bicycles	22,261	27,396
Coal, bituminous	16,406	18,344
" anthracite (free)	96,832	84,089
Drugs and medicines	15,067	19,100
Earthen, stone and chinaware	16,905	15,246
Fruits, green and dried	31,970	26,332
Furs and fur skins	18,412	26,745
Glass and glassware	16,395	13,857
Jewellery and watches	23,199	14,939
Leather and m'frs of	9,825	18,970
Musical instruments	12,367	10,289
Paints and colors	6,329	9,181
Paper and manufactures of	29,857	22,214
Spirits and wines	5,502	21,628
Wood and manufactures of	9,678	14,674

The list gives twenty or thirty items of free goods imported. We compare half a dozen of the chief of these.

FREE IMPORTS.

	March, 1895.	March, 1894.
Coal, anthracite	\$96,832	\$84,089
Coffee	12,077	12,424
Dyes, chemicals, &c.	18,323	23,694
Hides and skins	56,758	74,595
Metal goods	22,476	44,405
Sisal and Manilla hemp	14,213	1,629
Tea	31,473	19,747
Wool, &c.	19,347	19,259

It may perhaps be taken as an indication of confidence in a brisker trade that our importers have bought more largely than they did in March, 1894, of all descriptions of dry goods, of metal wares, jewellery, musical instruments, and that our manufacturers appear to have laid in a larger stock of coal for fuel.

EXPORTS OF CANADIAN PRODUCE.

Produce of	March, 1895.	March, 1894.
The Mine	\$ 21	\$
" Fisheries	1,093	231
" Forest	5,319	3,605
" Field	115,983	62,247
Animals, and their product	146,372	125,034
Manufactures	104,869	58,124
Total	\$373,657	\$249,241

The increased exports of last month are mainly in the shape of dairy products, dead meats, wool, beans, peas, green fruits and other articles farmers raise, besides unspecified manufactures.

THE BRITISH TELEGRAPH SYSTEM.

On a recent occasion Mr. Arnold Morley, the British Postmaster General, reviewed the growth of postal and telegraphic communication during the reign of Queen Victoria. In the course of his remarks it was stated that Mr. Greville, who was living in Paris in 1836, wrote in his diary

that the speech of the British King had been delivered in Paris within 29 hours from its delivery in London, "a rate of transmission," Greville adds, "almost incredible." The manner in which things have changed is illustrated by the number of minutes, instead of hours, now taken to transmit such intelligence.

In an article celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the taking over by the Government of the various telegraph lines in the United Kingdom, the *London Graphic* presents the portraits of three principal functionaries of the telegraph branch of the British postal service. These are W. H. Preece, F.R.S., engineer-in-chief and electrician; Mr. H. C. Fischer, director of telegraphs, and Mr. J. C. Lamb, assistant secretary. The article presents a statistical comparison of the business done by wire in 1870 and in 1894 respectively. In 1870, when Mr. H. C. Fischer took the directorship of telegraphs at the central office, London, the number of telegrams, whether press, inland or foreign, which were sent over the wires of all the companies in the United Kingdom, which the Government then took over, was 6,880,000 annually. In the year 1894 the number reached 71,465,000, nearly twelve times as many.

And the extent of the lines has increased in the twenty-five years from 59,430 miles to 246,000 miles of wire; the instruments from 670 to 8,500 in number. At the earlier period seventy to eighty words per minute was a rapid rate of transmission. But to-day there are, says the *Graphic* article, "Wheatstone multiplex instruments now at the central office in Aldersgate street, which will flash a message at the rate of 600 words a minute, which is more than twice as fast as any human being can speak and four times as fast as the most rapid of our public speakers."

As to the reduction in the cost, which is a matter of very practical interest, in 1870 the average cost to the public of a telegram was 2s. 2d., where now it is reduced to 7½d. If we take the private messages as averaging 15 words a telegram—which at 7½d. is about its average—and add to it the average number of words sent as news, we find that over 400,000,000 words pass over wires of the Central Telegraph Office in a year. The cost of wiring to the continent is likewise greatly lessened. It used to be 12 shillings to Italy, 6 shillings to Austria, and the lowest charge to France 4 shillings. Now the charge is 2d. to 3d. per word; minimum charge 10d.

Over fifty per cent. of the telegraphic business of the country passes through the Central Telegraph Office at St. Martins-le-Grand, in London. And this is claimed to be "the largest and best-conducted establishment of the kind in the world." The number of employees required to handle this business exhibits, naturally, an increase commensurate with its growth. In 1870 the staff numbered less than 500. To-day it is more than 3,000, or, including messengers, &c., nearly 4,000. The extent of premises required to house this enormous staff may be inferred from the figures.

PROPOSED ONTARIO LEGISLATION.

The following very desirable provision is suggested: Registrars of deeds to be required annually to transmit to the clerk of the municipality, a statement showing the land transfers during the preceding year, with the name of the grantor and grantee, and the price at which the lands were sold. In this way there can be no question about who is the owner of the land or what its proper value is.

It is proposed to have mortgages and sales of personal property registered where the trader or other person purchasing or mortgaging resides, not as now where the goods are situate, the result of this being that the trader or other person will have his credit affected, if it is to be affected, by the records in the place where he resides, not where he may for the time being happen to have the goods stored.

The Attorney-General has introduced a bill, providing that in the