

BOOK IMPORTS INTO ONTARIO AND QUEBEC, 1850—1869.

The following statistical table has been compiled from the "Trade and Navigation Returns" for the years specified, showing the gross value of books (not maps or school apparatus) imported into Ontario and Quebec.

YEAR OF IMPORT.	Value of Books entered at Ports in the Province of Quebec.	Value of Books entered at Ports in the Province of Ontario.	Total value of Books imported into the two Provinces.	Proportion imported for the Education Department of Ontario.
1850.....	\$101,880	\$141,700	\$243,580	\$84
1851.....	120,700	171,732	292,432	3,296
1852.....	141,176	159,268	300,444	1,288
1853.....	153,700	254,280	412,980	22,764
1854.....	171,452	307,808	479,260	44,060
1855.....	194,356	338,792	533,148	25,624
1856.....	208,636	427,992	636,628	10,208
1857.....	224,400	309,172	533,572	16,028
1858.....	171,255	191,942	363,197	10,692
1859.....	139,057	184,304	323,361	5,308
1860.....	155,604	252,504	408,108	8,846
1861.....	185,612	344,621	530,233	7,782
1862.....	183,987	249,234	433,221	7,800
1863.....	184,632	276,673	461,325	4,085
½ of 1864.....	93,308	127,233	220,541	4,668
1864-5.....	189,336	200,304	389,690	9,522
1865-6.....	222,559	247,749	470,308	14,749
1866-7.....	233,837	273,615	507,452	20,743
1867-8.....	224,582	254,048	478,630	12,374
1868-9.....	278,914	373,758	652,672	11,874

Up to 1854, the "Trade and Navigation Returns" give the value of books entered at every port in the two Provinces separately; after that year, the Reports give the names of the principal ports only, and the rest as "Other Ports." In 1854, the proportion entered in Quebec was within a fraction of the third part of the whole, and, accordingly, in compiling this table for the years 1855-69, the value entered in "Other Ports" is divided between Ontario and Quebec, in the proportion of two-thirds to the former, and one-third to the latter.

The memorial then proceeds:—"Your Memorialists would further urge the fact that the destruction of the Depository would be attended with grave consequences to the people of Canada, seeing that a pure and healthy fountain of literature would be destroyed, and the advantage lost that public schools have enjoyed of forming the nucleus of public libraries at an easy and reasonable rate."

PROOFS OF PROSPERITY—TORONTO "GLOBE'S" COMMERCIAL REPORTS OF THE BOOK TRADE, 1860-1870.

From the "Annual Reviews of Trade," published yearly in the Toronto *Globe* newspaper, we make the following extracts to show how groundless has been the charge of "interference" by the Department with the "book trade." Indeed, so little was the so-called "interference" felt that the operations of the Depository have never been once mentioned in the yearly "Trade Reviews."

The remarks of the *Globe*, in the "Review" of 1867, are highly significant, and only go to prove the statement often made, that the "book trade" has profited largely by the existence of the Depository. The *Globe* says: "Looking about us, and casting over the classes that are likely to produce the demand for books, we fail to account for the great strides in the book trade of the Province." We, however, can most satisfactorily account for them. The operations of the Depository extend to every part of the Province, and into township after township where not a single book can be purchased from "the trade." The names even of many of these townships are so new that few in the community know them, for instance: Matawatchesan,

Griffith, Bexley, Dysart, Harvey, Minden, Morrison, Kippel, etc., etc. And yet to the schools in these, as well as in most of the other townships, the Department is constantly sending hundreds of volumes of the choicest prize and library books. The very first knowledge which the people have of the existence of many of the books sold by "the trade" is from the packages sent out by the Department. The Annual Review for 1862 reveals the character of the books circulated by "the trade" before the present system of sending out prize books by the Department had time to develop itself. The *Globe* "Review" says:—"For years the country has been flooded with the lowest and most trashy class of literature from the American press." The whole effort of the Department has been to counteract this deplorable effect of the operations of the "book trade" when in possession of the field, and the result of its efforts fully accounts for the "great strides in the book trade of the Province" in 1867, which the *Globe* review failed to understand or appreciate. We now give from the *Globe* the following extracts from its annual reviews of trade: -

1860.—"This branch of trade, the existence of which in its present distinct character only dates back a few years, has been prosperous during the past season, and is rapidly becoming an important item in the commerce of the city."

1861.—"No change of material importance has taken place in this trade during the year. Sales have not been so large as were anticipated, yet they do not fall short of those of the preceding year. The depressed condition of the trade in the United States has caused a number of bankrupt stocks to be thrown into the market, at this and at other points, composed for the most part of a great deal of trash, leavened with a very little of really sound literature.

* * * Notwithstanding this, however, the regular legitimate trade has not languished, and on the whole has resulted satisfactorily. * * * The retail trade is in a generally healthy condition, and its character, especially in the country, is yearly improving."

1862.—"The year's business in this branch of trade has been quite satisfactory. Though perhaps less in extent, in common with other departments, it has been quite as profitable if not more so than in former years. * * * A gratifying fact is found in the improved character of the works introduced into general circulation. For years the country has been flooded with the lowest and most trashy class of literature from the American press. Books whose only merit was their bulk and binding, have been hawked into every nook of the Province by a migratory tribe of itinerant peddlers."

1863.—"The improvement which we from time to time have noticed in this branch of business, has, during the year just closed, been fully maintained. The trade has been healthy and profitable, and in extent it exceeds that of previous years. * * * We are glad this year to report a still greater improvement in the character of the books and periodicals most generally read and circulated in the Province. English books, as a rule, are having a much increased sale. * * * In all points of view there is much room for congratulation as to the improved condition of the book trade in Canada."

1866.—"The book trade of the Province is year by year assuming larger proportions, and it is a matter of no little congratulation that each year this important branch of commerce is rapidly extending itself."

1867.—"Looking about us, and casting over the classes that are likely to produce the demand for books, we fail to account for the great strides in the book trade of the Province. * * * There is a large importation of books in miscellaneous literature, and in pro-