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REPORT.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MONTREAL BOARD OF TRADE :

GENTLEMEN :

In accordance with By-law 46, which provides that the Council shall present a general report of its proceedings at each annual meeting, the following resumé of the business that has come before your Council since its election last January is submitted.

As introductory thereto, it may be remarked that the general trade of the Dominion for 1887 has been satisfactory, and that while the partial shortage in the Ontario crops has, during its closing months, somewhat unfavourably affected business, the prospects for the immediate future are brightened to some extent by the prosperity prevailing in Manitoba in consequence of the magnificent wheat crop harvested in that Province last season.

So far as Montreal is concerned, the Custom House returns given below shew that the shipping and commerce of this port continue to increase, and the completion of its railway connection with the American North-West by the bridge at Sault Ste. Marie, warrants the expectation that in the near future, a very marked development of its trade will occur. Another channel of transportation, which cannot but favourably affect the business interests of Montreal, is the steamship communication established during the past year between the Pacific coast of the Dominion and the eastern Asiatic ports,—which, combined with our trans-continental railway and Atlantic steamship service, forms the most direct and most speedy route between western Europe and China, Japan, and Australasia.

YEARS.	Sea-going Vessels arrived in Port.	Total Tonnage.	Value of Merchandise Exported.	Value of Merchandise Imported.	Customs Duties Collected.
1887.....	767	870,773	\$ 29,391,798	\$ 43,100,183	\$8,745,526.11
1886.....	703	809,699	28,078,330	40,469,942	8,362,618.94
1885.....	629	683,854	25,274,898	37,413,250	6,672,971.26
1884.....	626	649,374	27,145,427	42,366,793	6,772,675.68
1883.....	660	664,263	27,277,159	43,718,549	7,698,796.12
1882.....	648	554,692	26,334,312	49,749,461	8,395,653.07
1881.....	569	531,929	26,561,188	43,546,821	7,672,266.17
1880.....	710	628,271	30,224,904	37,102,869	5,231,783.80
1850.....	211	46,156	1,744,772	7,174,180	1,009,256.80