

To the Hon. ISAAC BURPEE,
Minister of Customs, &c., &c., &c.

SIR,—In laying before you the Trade and Navigation Tables for the Fiscal Year ending June 30th, 1873, as deduced from the Returns of Exports, Imports and Shipping transmitted to this Department from all the Ports of Entry of the Dominion, it is satisfactory to be able to state that the statistical aggregation of those Returns shows a progressive increase in the trade and commerce of the country.

This fact is exhibited in the following Comparative Statement of the value of Exports, the value of goods Imported and the amount of goods entered for consumption in the Dominion of Canada during the six years following the Confederation of the Provinces :—

—				Total Exports.	Total Imports.	Entered for Consumption.	Duty.
				\$	\$	\$	\$
Fiscal Year ending 30th June, 1868.....				57,567,888	73,459,644	71,985,306	8,819,431 63
do do do 1869.....				60,474,781	70,415,165	67,402,170	8,298,909 71
do do do 1870.....				73,573,490	74,814,339	71,237,603	9,462,940 44
do do do 1871.....				74,173,618	96,092,971	86,947,482	11,843,655 75
do do do 1872.....				82,639,663	111,430,527	107,769,116	13,015,493 50
do do do 1873.....				89,789,922	128,011,281	127,514,594	13,017,730 17
Aggregate for six years....				438,219,362	554,223,927	532,796,271	64,488,161 20

The only year in which the Imports appear to have fallen short of those of the preceding year, is that of 1869. This was, no doubt, due to the increased importations in the Maritime Provinces in 1867 to avoid the duties of the Canadian Tariff, which were rather higher than those in New Brunswick or Nova Scotia, thus producing a depression in the Importations of the year mentioned (1869).

This table shows that the Exports of the country increased in six years 55·95 per cent. ; the Imports entered for consumption, 77·13 per cent. ; the amount of Duties, 47·59 per cent. ; and that the average yearly excess during that period of the value of Imports over Exports, was \$19,334,094—the average yearly excess of goods entered for consumption being \$15,762,818—This last amount includes an average of \$6,015,091 of Free Goods, of which again an average of \$1,100,000 yearly consists of the value of property brought into the country by Immigrants, under the name of Settlers' Effects, which latter amount, it is considered, may clearly go in deduction of the excess of Importations, thus reducing that excess to \$14,662,818.

It is not my province to examine into or to speculate upon the bearing which the received theory of Political Economists, touching the balance of Trade, may have upon this feature of the statement. It is my duty to confine myself to figures, but I trust I may be permitted to notice that there exists one momentous item of gain to Canada which does not appear in figures in our Commercial Statistics, and that is the value of our