

Trade and Commerce.

Changes in classification follow changes in tariff, which often accounts for the sudden appearance or disappearance, as the case may be, of many detailed items of imports shown in statistical tables,—comparing one year with another—an item suddenly appearing or disappearing, while in reality no particular change in the importation may have occurred. Many such instances appear in Statement No. 2, Part I. of this Report, caused by changes in the Tariff made since 1889; one example will suffice to illustrate. The first item on page 26:—“Curtains when made up, trimmed or untrimmed”; no imports are shown in 1889, and only to the value of about \$7,000 in 1890, while in 1891 the value exceeds \$200,000, and in 1893 it exceeds \$300,000. This cannot be taken to imply that there were no curtains imported prior to 1890, but that in consequence of a change in the wording of the Tariff of 1890, which provided specially for such curtains, they were necessarily taken from where previously included among fancy goods and classed by themselves.

For convenience the report has been divided into three parts:—

1. Statistical and financial statements.
2. Commercial relations and information referring to the principal trade, &c. of different countries.
3. Customs Tariffs of Great Britain and her colonies.

For the absolute accuracy of the tariffs the department cannot be responsible, although they have been corrected up to date in so far as is possible from the various returns and other information available, the activity throughout the world in respect of tariff changes during the past two years rendering such corrected information in some instances difficult of attainment:—and should there prove to be some errors or omissions, they are confidently believed to be few and of comparative unimportance, while the information afforded to the mercantile community by their publication, will it is expected, prove to be of considerable present value, as well as a convenience for future reference.

Such of the circulars issued by the department containing information of permanent value to the public are reproduced at the end of Part II.

The following figures represent in round numbers in Canadian currency, the values of the aggregate foreign trade of some of the principal representative countries as well as of Canada for the fiscal years 1889 to 1892. The German fiscal year ends 31st March, the British, French and Spanish 31st December, the United States and Canadian 30th June.

Country.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Great Britain	3,617,054,000	3,644,861,000	3,623,500,000	3,481,779,000
Canada	218,607,000	218,385,000	241,361,000	247,638,000
United States	1,597,632,000	1,680,900,000	1,798,830,000	1,779,351,000
Germany	2,433,208,000	1,996,234,000	2,032,512,000	1,755,851,000
France	1,953,890,000	1,986,495,000	2,059,078,000	1,869,625,000
Spain	340,291,000	3,262,000	376,546,000	286,850,000
Argentine Republic	287,439,000	243,059,000	170,426,000	
Japan	101,655,000	111,258,000	113,329,000	115,852,000

As regards some of the foregoing countries, the figures for 1893, will, it is believed show a serious reduction in volume and value. The indications as gathered from avail-