

bought seven times as much electric apparatus in 1904 as we did in 1895, notwithstanding the increase in Canadian manufacture of such goods; the import of gutta percha and rubber goods is trebled, and that of cement doubled in ten years; precious stones (\$1,217,514 last year) show a more remarkable growth of import than jewellery, (\$876,841 last year), indicating the development of the lapidary's art in Canada.

The largest item of our imports by far is metals, minerals, and manufactures thereof, an item which is enlarged from \$12,331,000 in 1895 to \$51,839,000 in 1904. This marks a wonderful broadening of our constructive industries. Coal and coke have naturally gone up in the same period from \$9,199,000 to \$21,562,000. Then taking a group of textiles, and the materials for making them, we find that imports of cotton, flax, silk, wool, and manufactures thereof have risen from a total of \$21,730,000 in 1895 to a total of \$40,843,000 in 1904, every department of the four showing figures nearly or more than doubled. The increase in drugs, dyes and chemicals purchased bears an indication of advancement in our manufactures; the same with hides and skins. The doubling of purchases of spirits, wines, and fruits, when we have all three of our own, is perhaps rather a proof of the increase of the population than of any growth in luxurious habits among our people.

OUR EXPORTS.

Looking next at the exports of Canada, there are a few striking items. For example, metals and manufactures thereof exported, swelled from \$4,254,000 in 1895 to no less than \$34,826,000 last year. This is accounted for largely by our shipments of Yukon gold and British Columbia minerals, for up to 1897 the item did not much exceed \$9,000,000; provisions, \$46,472,000—doubled in ten years—including of course cheese, which is the largest item in the whole list of Canada's products exported; breadstuffs, \$32,000,000 to-day where it was \$13,000,000 ten years ago; fruits, five and a half millions' worth exported from this country in twelve months; sales of spirits and wines of Canadian production doubled in ten years. Of wood, one expects the export to be large, and of fish, for these are among our great natural possessions. Living animals, too, are a considerable item, and an accustomed one. Among manufactures, some of our readers will mark with approval the growth in carriages and carts exported, increased six times; in leather goods, in dyes and chemicals. But musical instruments do not keep up their usual export trade, nor unfortunately have woolen manufactures increased, but declined.



MONTREAL'S STREETS AND SEWERS.

We read in the Montreal papers that the city surveyor, Mr. Barlow, presented to the road committee of the council of that city a report on public works which he urgently recommended to be undertaken this year. Among his recommendations were: increasing the capacity of the Craig Street sewage pump, a new outlet for Delorimier Avenue sewer, a connection from the sewage farm with the Back River, a storm sewer for Sherbrooke Street, and safety valves to prevent floodings. Then there is a sewer outlet for Elgin Basin, and an enlargement of the sewer on Mount Royal Avenue recommended. These works, every one of which is needed, are estimated to cost

\$259,000. This sum is but part of the proposals of the city engineer, whose total suggested expenditure for the year, including cleaning streets, repairs to pavements, permanent sidewalks, grading and macadamizing, amounts to \$592,000.

Now let it be observed that of these works which the city engineer recommends as desirable or essential in 1905, the cost of the sewage system is less than half the total. But what does the committee say about these most essential works for the sanitation of the city? We read: "It was the general opinion of the committee that the construction of new sewers and the pump-house must be left to the discretion of the Finance Committee, which means the question must be decided by the funds on hand." That is: the health of the inhabitants of the great city of Montreal must be subservient to the consideration whether a quarter million dollars can be afforded for a year's work in this most necessary direction! The Gazette tells us that, "The pump-house referred to has been recommended for years. It is intended to strengthen the city's pumping system during the high water season, when the sewage has to be pumped into the river. The two pumping stations now in use do well, but the city is growing."

Any one conversant with the municipal history of Montreal for the last twenty years can recall civic enterprises on which millions have been spent which are of less importance to the well-being of its inhabitants than the \$592,000 recommended to be expended on works which intimately concern the general health and comfort. It is to be hoped that some member or members of the city council will have the courage to rise and say, what no member of the roads committee dared to say, that the money for these necessary works must be provided.

A resident of Montreal, Mr. R. D. McGibbon, in a letter to the press, dated 30th March, refers to the "miserable" and "disgusting" condition of the streets of Montreal, spring after spring, as a "disgrace to civilization." And he claims that "it is the duty of the city council and its servants to provide the tax-paying citizens with streets that are passable, and to see that the necessary taxation is imposed and properly expended." While declaring that it is futile to expect any relief from the incompetent civic authorities, he asks if it may not be possible that a united effort of the citizens generally would have some beneficial result!

"Either by the gradual removal of the snow during the winter, or by a concerted and vigorous effort early in the spring, this protracted season of impassable, reeking roadways could be avoided. If it is necessary that the citizens should be further taxed, in heaven's name let us be taxed! Anything is preferable, in my humble opinion, to these annual visitations so detrimental to the commercial interests of the city, and so prejudicial to the health of its inhabitants."

He proposes that a public meeting of citizens be convened to consider the question and to appoint a committee of leading citizens to see that something shall be *done*. We look with interest to the outcome of such a proposal, for it is discreditable to have it said that scores and hundreds of Montreal's citizens leave the city every spring to remain away until such time as the snow and filth of the streets are removed and the health of their families is no longer prejudiced thereby.