

vinced that it is for the interests of the country that an examination be made into the condition of all American companies doing business in Canada, especially those hailing from New York, where the greatest amount of rascality has been carried on. That Canadians have begun to feel security is required is evidenced by the bill before Parliament, by the number of policies allowed to lapse lately, by the figures published in a recent number of this journal, giving the decrease in the business of American companies for 1876, and the increase in the business of British and Canadian companies as compared with 1875, showing that the latter are gaining that ground in public confidence which the former are rapidly losing.

We can assure the managers of any American companies doing business in Canada whose feelings have been lacerated by our references to their late departed friends the Continental, the Security, &c., that we shall not swerve from our duty to the public though they rend the welkin with their cry of "blackmail." Our advertising pages show the publicity sought therein by prominent New York and other Insurance companies. We have yet to learn that any person attached to this journal in any capacity has visited the office of any New York insurance company doing business in Canada during the last four months—the period within the time since the insurance panic begun to develop itself in New York—and we are not likely to venture doing business with them in the present state of affairs.

CUSTOMS LEGISLATION.

We have received a copy of the Government Bill to amend and consolidate the acts respecting the customs. We sincerely hope that the new regulations will ensure more reliable returns, particularly as to exports, than we have hitherto had. There can hardly be a doubt that a very considerable quantity of produce is exported from inland ports to the United States of which there is no return. The inland ports are a great source of weakness in our system, but we fear there is no remedy. They add materially to the percentage of cost in collecting the revenue, and, of course, the same supervision that exists at the larger ports cannot be secured at the small ones. It would be very desirable that there should be increased efficiency in the inspecting branch of the service. A vigilant supervision over the entries made at the inland ports, would soon lead to the detection of any organized system of fraud, such as has been supposed by many to have been practised. No doubt

there has been a great deal of exaggeration as to the entries at the minor ports, but regular inspection is much needed. On the whole, the government bill contains many improvements in matters of detail, and we presume that it will pass without opposition.

THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

The dry goods trade of Montreal is a subject on which much could be said, and a history of its rise and development would, without doubt, prove of interest to our readers, for it would lead us to refer incidentally to matters affecting the rise and progress of the whole Dominion. Montreal occupies the strong natural position of the head of navigation for ocean going vessels, and its advancement, therefore, has kept pace with the growth and development of the country both east and west of it. We cannot within the limits of a single article give anything like a history of this important branch of our trade, but propose merely to draw attention to its position and prospects at the present day.

We subjoin an alphabetically arranged list of the principal wholesale dry goods importers of Montreal:—

General Dry Goods.

Lewis S. Black & Thom.	W. J. McMaster & Co.
T. James Claxton & Co.	Mackay Brothers.
F. & G. Cusling.	J. G. MacKenzie & Co.
Robert Dunn & Co.	P. P. Martin & Co.
Jas. Donnelly & Son	Ogilvy & Co.
Fish, Shepherd & Co.	A. Prevost & Co.
P. Y. Galabreanu & Co.	Robertsons, Linton & Co.
Gault Bros. & Co.	P. Rooney.
J. Y. Gilmour & Co.	Adolphe Roy & Co.
Jacques Grenier & Co.	James Roy & Co.
S. Greenshields, Son & Co.	Stephen, Davidson & Co.
James Johnston & Co.	Stevenson & Co.
Lamarche, Demers, Prevost & Co.	Stirling, McCall & Co.
F. & J. Leclaire & Co.	Thibaudau Bros. & Co.
McIntyre, French & Co.	George Winks & Co.
McLachlan Bros. & Co.	

Wholesale Fancy Goods and Dry Goods.

Cameron, Mackenzie & Co.	Hodgson, Murphy & Sumner.
Cushing & Co.	John McLean & Co.
Dobbin, Lamont & Co.	Thomas May & Co.

Woollen Goods, Wholesale.

Cantlie, Ewan & Co.	Mills & Hutchison.
C. Dowling & Co.	David Morrice & Co.
M. Fisher, Sons & Co.	Geo. Stephen & Co.
D. McInnes & Co.	

Wholesale Clothiers.

James S. Evans & Co.	James O'Brien & Co.
J. G. Kennedy & Co.	Mackenzie & Co.
S. H. & J. Moss & Co.	H. Shorey & Co.
Wm. Ewan & Co.	

Shirt and Collar Manufacturers, and Dealers in Gents' furnishings.

Edward Nield & Co.	Young, McNaughton & Co.
Skelton, Tooke & Co.	
A. H. Sims.	

Among these firms has been divided this last year a trade of from \$10,000,000 to \$11,000,000 in imported goods, and

probably from \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000 in home manufactures. About one-half of this trade is monopolized by about fifteen of the larger firms, leaving an average turn-over for last year of about \$200,000 to each of the others.

Our statements are based on the importations of last year, which, as we have already shown in a former article, fell far short of the previous one, and showed a still greater decrease on the average of the last five years. It has been a year of singular and exceptional depression in all branches of trade.

Among all the jealousies of trade which, no doubt, so long as mankind remain what they are, will continue to mar the harmony of this trade within ourselves, Montreal has certainly no feeling of jealousy at the success or advancement of this branch in other cities and importing centres of the Dominion. Nature has made her the distributing point for the imports and exports of the Dominion, and, directly or indirectly, she must share in the wealth and success of the other central points. So long as her merchants continue to display, as heretofore, their wonted ability and enterprise, she can have no cause to do otherwise than rejoice at the success of her rivals. It is therefore in no spirit of arrogance that we desire to show the comparative volume of the dry goods trade here as contrasted with that of other cities.

Toronto comes next on the list, as a distributing centre. We annex an alphabetically arranged list of the principal wholesale dry goods importers there:—

General Dry Goods.

David Arnott & Co.	John MacDonald & Co.
Brandon & Co.	Ogilvy & Co.
Bryce, McMurrich & Co.	John Robertson Son & Co.
Dobbie & Carrie.	N. & F. Rooney.
Gordon, Mackay & Co.	Samson, Kennedy & Gemmel.
Hughes Bros.	G. B. Smith & Henderson.
James Jennings.	Stalker & Ross.
A. R. McMaster & Bro.	

Fancy Goods and Dry Goods.

Alexander & Reid.	Thomas May & Co.
James Brayley & Co.	Peach & Goulding.
Hodgson & Boyd.	White & Co., (Lace-men).
McKinnon, Proctor & McCall.	

Woollen Goods.

Hird, Fyfe, Ross & Co.	Wyld & Darling.
Thomas Walls & Co.	

Clothing, Wholesale.

Thomas Lailey & Co.	Livingstone, Johnston & Co.
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Toronto shows a trade for last year of from \$7,000,000 to \$8,000,000 divided among about half the number of wholesale firms as compared with Montreal. Toronto has developed her natural advantages with great enterprise and much expenditure on railways, by which she has brought into close connection with her