

TABLE which shows in millions of dollars the value of exports and imports of enumerated articles and of all articles for the years named, both as declared and as calculated, at the rates of 1873.

	Enumerated Exports.		Enumerated Imports.		Total Exports.		Total Imports.	
	At declared values.	At prices of 1873.	At declared values.	At prices of 1873.	At declared values.	At prices of 1873.	At declared values.	At prices of 1873.
1873.....	172 M	173 M	378 M	308 M	371 M	371 M	255 M	255 M
1879.....	122 "	174 "	289 "	319 "	363 "	438 "	181½ "	273 "
1883.....	146 "	212½ "	336 "	403 "	427 "	512 "	240 "	349 "
1884.....	140 "	208 "	300 "	383 "	390 "	498 "	233 "	346 "
1885.....	131 "	201½ "	281½ "	384½ "	371 "	507 "	213 "	328 "
1886.....	131 "	215 "	263 "	382½ "	350 "	509 "	212½ "	349 "
Increase of 1886 over 1873, at prices of 1873, over declared values.....					45 p.c.		64 p.c.	

While it is fair to say that there are the returns, and the values show so much in 1873, and so much in 1886, it is also but right to go behind that statement and enquire whether there has been a fall or a rise in prices as between those two years, and ascertain how the volume of trade compares between those two periods, for, unless you obtain those facts, you have not a fair comparison and you cannot make a fair statement with respect to the trade of a country. A comparison of the prices of various articles in 1873 and 1886 as shown by British Customs declared values shows the enormous fall that has taken place in prices since the first named year, as will be seen by the following figures:

AVERAGE prices of articles mentioned, from declared Customs values in £'s and decimals of a £, and in shillings and decimals of a shilling.

EXPORTS.	1873.	1886.	Decrease per cent.
Iron, pig and puddled.....	£ 124.65 ton	£ 43.17 "	65
Angle bolt and rod.....	£13.77 "	£ 5.79 "	58
Bar and B.R.....	£13.21 "	£ 5.13 "	61
Wire.....	£23.52 "	£13.84 "	42
Galvanised.....	£28.95 "	£12.07 "	55
Hoops.....	£14.58 "	£ 6.11 "	58
Manufactures of steel.....	£69.65 "	£29.99 "	57
Brass (all sorts).....	£ 5.99 cwt	£ 3.74 "	38
Lead, pig and pipe.....	£23.75 "	£13.85 "	42
Tins, wrought and unwrought.....	£ 24.92 "	£13.55 "	46
Refined sugar.....	£ 30.02 "	£14.23 "	53
Wool (sheep and lamb).....	21.18d lb.	10.07d "	52
Flannels.....	18.10d yd.	12.49d "	31
Carpets.....	38.64d "	25.41d "	34
IMPORTS.			
Cheese.....	£ 2.99 cwt	£ 2.23 "	25
Wheat.....	£13.01 "	£ 7.55 "	42
Barley.....	£ 8.69 "	£ 5.78 "	33
Oats.....	£ 8.06 "	£ 5.89 "	27
Maize.....	£ 7.06 "	£ 4.91 "	30
Wheat flour.....	£18.83 "	£11.20 "	41
Fish.....	£ 27.94 "	£25.71 "	8
Tow and Cordilla of flax.....	£ 35.55 "	£23.57 "	34
Hops.....	£ 4.91 "	£ 2.91 "	41
Lard.....	£ 44.37 "	£34.50 "	22
Copper ore.....	£16.54 ton	£ 6.85 "	58
Copper registers.....	£40.80 "	£22.74 "	44
Iron and copper pyrites.....	£ 50.02 "	£36.98 "	26
Sawn timber.....	£ 3.24 load	£ 2.16 "	33
Sawn and split.....	£ 3.06 "	£ 2.17 "	30
Staves.....	£ 9.96 "	£ 4.07 "	59

Now, what I hold is this, and I think it is plain to every member of this House, that there has been a large fall in prices between 1873 and 1886, and 1887 and 1888. These prices taken in England, may be held as a fair index of the

Mr. FOSTER.

B

rise and fall of the prices in Canada—not in all articles, but in the staples in which we trade with Great Britain in the way of imports and in the way of exports. Therefore I think the conclusion is fair, that in saying that in 1873 the trade was \$217,000,000, whilst in 1888 it was but \$201,000,000, and thereby, trying to deduce the fact that the country is not so prosperous so far as its trade is concerned, you do not state the whole truth of the case. You have to go still further than this and calculate that there is a fall in values in the articles which I have mentioned, and to the percentage which I have mentioned, and in almost all other articles to a greater or lesser extent, and then you come to what I believe to be the true basis of comparing the commerce of the country, so far as regards the real advantages which are derived therefrom. You have to take into account the volume of trade, which you can only get by a comparison of prices between the years. A sufficient answer to the question of my hon. friend is this: that although the values in 1873 showed \$217,000,000, the volume of trade in 1873, as can be easily seen from the fall in prices, was far less than the volume of trade in 1887, and, therefore, the prosperity of the country in all that pertains to enlarged commerce so far as this volume of trade is concerned, was greater in 1888 than it was in 1873. Now with reference to the foreign trade of the country. I think it can be discerned in the spirit of the country, and I find it in conversation with business men and on examination of the business enterprise of the country, that the spirit is developing in this country for increasing our foreign trade more than it has been increased for a number of years past, and for this there are causes which I shall mention presently.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. FOSTER. My friends on the other side are quite willing to bear me out in that statement, because, if it be true, as I have no doubt it is, they try to gather from that statement, some comfort for a lost cause of their own. The spirit for increasing foreign trade is developing in this country, and it is developing because of this reason. The time was when the trade and industries of this country were in a depressed state, when from 1874 to 1873 the doors of Parliament were besieged by the representatives of the industries of this country which were being slaughtered from the United States markets. Those representatives then came here and besought the hon. gentlemen who then occupied the Treasury benches to protect the industries and the trade of this country against ruinous competition. Why did they do this? Because, Sir, from 1866 until that time unavailing efforts had been made by both Governments, and by both parties, in all candor and earnestness, to have the trade between our country and the United States again placed on the basis of 1854 or some reciprocal basis. All these negotiations were unavailing, and in the end events had come to such a crisis that the people of this country were rapidly coming to the conclusion that if we could not get a reciprocity treaty with the country alongside of us, we should at least carve out a policy of our own, we should build up our own industries, we should give them the protection that was necessary towards building them up, we should make a commerce internal which we had been strangers to up to that time, and we should lay the foundation for reaching out to a foreign trade which can be only reached out to after that foundation has been laid in the internal industries and commerce of the country itself. Just as this Government came to the aid of the people in 1878, and gave them that measure of protection which established their industries, and which has encouraged and fostered them from 1879 to the present, just as the Government came to the aid of the country then, the Government is ready and willing to come to the aid of the country now and implement to the best of its ability