

CANADIAN TRADE LAST YEAR

United Kingdom's Share of Our Import Trade in 1916

The trade of Canada for 1916 is analysed and reviewed in a report just published, to the British government's board of trade, by Mr. C. H. Wickes, British trade commissioner in Canada and Newfoundland. After reviewing the general economic conditions in Canada in 1916, with special reference to crops, minerals, immigration, census of manufactures, etc., Mr. Wickes proceeds to deal with imports into Canada of selected articles in which the United Kingdom is in a position to compete, and points out that the value of the United Kingdom's share in this trade in "competitive merchandise" declined from 29.2 per cent. in 1915 to 27 per cent. in the year under review. He has compiled a table (printed at the foot of this page), showing the value of imports for consumption into Canada of certain selected articles in which United Kingdom manufacturers compete with those of foreign countries for the years 1915 and 1916, together with the percentage proportion of each import from the United Kingdom, as well as the gross amount of imports into Canada during those years.

The report gives the following notes on the trade in some of the principal articles of import:

Some of Principal Items.

There was a noticeable increase in the arrivals of cocoa preparations, chiefly from the United States.

The falling off in imports of tea during 1916 was considerable. Although imports from the United Kingdom increased, there was a great decrease in direct arrivals from the British East Indies.

The increase in imports of manufactured tobacco came almost entirely from the United Kingdom, but in pipes and smokers' sundries the bulk of the increase was from the United States.

The United States increased its lead considerably in imports of bricks and tiles, especially fire bricks.

There was an advance in the value of the imports of drugs and chemicals of over \$11,000,000, or 82 per cent. in excess of 1915—the United States, under present conditions, easily obtaining the major portion of the additional trade.

As regards imports of earthenware, china and glass, the United States also obtained the bulk of the increased business, especially in plate and window glass.

The value of the total imports of manufactures of metal and machinery increased by 37 per cent. Imports of British goods have remained practically stationary, the additional

trade being from the United States. In 1915 the relative proportion of the trade from the United Kingdom was 7.7 per cent.; in 1916 it has fallen to 6.1 per cent.

The trade in paints and colors in 1916 increased by nearly 70 per cent. in value, while the imports from the United Kingdom increased by 37 per cent.

The position as regards manufactures of paper, books and stationery is less favorable, total imports having increased in value by about 20 per cent., while United Kingdom figures show a decrease of 4 per cent.

It is worthy of note that the entire increase in value of imports of precious stones, etc., is traceable to imports of unset diamonds from the United Kingdom.

It will be noted that a slight improvement is shown in the value of settlers' effects entered from the United Kingdom during 1916. The bulk of the increase during the year is, of course, traceable to arrivals from the United States.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Banking.—Monthly financial letter of the National City Bank of Chicago.

Trade and Finance.—Monthly letter of the First National Bank of Boston, Boston.

Finance.—Mr. Charles Wallace Collins has supplied much needed information in his book on the budget system. There are many vague and hazy ideas as to the real meaning of the word, and its use in connection with the financial affairs of a nation. Mr. Collins has eliminated all doubts in his clear and comprehensive work. "The National Budget System and American Finance." By Charles Wallace Collins. Published by the Macmillan Company of Canada, St. Martin's House, Toronto. Price, \$1.25.

Trade of Canada.—Report of the trade of the Dominion of Canada for the year 1916, by Mr. C. Hamilton Wickes (His Majesty's trade commissioner in the Dominion of Canada and Newfoundland). To be purchased through any bookseller or directly from H.M. Stationery Office at the following addresses:—Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and 28 Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1; 37 Peter Street, Manchester; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; 23 Forth Street, Edinburgh; or from E. Ponsonby, Limited, 116 Grafton Street, Dublin; or from the agencies in the British Colonies and Dependencies, the United States of America, and other foreign countries, of T. Fisher Unwin, Limited, London, W.C. [Cd. 8679.] Price 3d. net.

Articles.	From the United Kingdom. \$	Imports for Consumption.				1916.	
		1915. From all countries. \$	Percentage U.K. of all countries. %	From the United Kingdom. \$	From all countries. \$	Percentage U.K. of all countries. %	
Dry goods	39,132,420	73,719,311	53.1	53,087,300	106,255,603	50.0	
Groceries	4,715,543	12,775,811	37.0	5,768,545	13,355,067	43.2	
Ales and whisky	2,084,114	2,238,675	93.2	2,044,602	2,139,306	95.5	
Manufactures of tobacco and tobacco pipes..	590,290	1,182,389	50.0	928,706	1,914,476	48.5	
Manufactures of bricks and tiles	206,904	1,538,455	13.4	274,284	2,373,753	11.5	
Manufactures of drugs and chemicals.....	2,420,586	13,667,400	17.7	3,362,531	24,887,908	13.5	
Manufactures of earthenware, china and glass	1,150,098	3,908,160	29.4	1,547,672	6,159,932	25.1	
Manufactures of leather	759,144	6,165,570	12.3	1,075,741	10,316,333	10.4	
Manufactures of metals and machinery (in- cluding electrical appliances, but exclud- ing certain non-competitive articles) ...	6,163,323	79,509,345	7.7	6,631,456	109,053,459	6.1	
Manufactures of paints and colors	304,891	1,744,204	17.2	419,401	2,960,155	14.2	
Manufactures of paper, books, stationery and engravings	2,071,394	10,490,264	19.7	1,984,073	12,511,766	15.9	
Manufactures of rubber	747,178	2,969,408	25.1	672,655	3,202,326	21.0	
Miscellaneous	2,637,748	5,428,707	48.4	3,713,800	7,036,906	52.8	
Totals of above articles	62,983,633	215,337,699	29.2	81,510,766	302,166,990	27.0	
Settlers' effects	435,837	3,795,341	11.5	484,042	4,751,917	10.2	
Articles for use by the Army and Navy	1,587,027	24,750,442	6.4	1,793,083	120,548,787	1.5	
Gross total of imports	74,293,223	450,547,774	16.5	102,956,836	766,726,891	13.4	