

# PRELIMINARY REPORTS.

---

## SPECIAL STATEMENTS,

INCLUDING PARTICULARS REGARDING

### COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, GREAT BRITAIN, &c.

---

A statement showing the quantities of Flour and Grain shipped from the Port of Quebec during a series of thirty years (1793 to 1822,) coming unexpectedly to hand, has prompted the gathering together of some other particulars, which may afford a summary, though not very connected view of the Canadian trade in Breadstuffs, from 1793 to the close of 1869. The intention is, so to speak, merely to place the facts on file here, for use by any one whom inclination and leisure might inspire to collect and arrange fuller materials for an account of the commerce of Canada. There are, however, some items of information interspersed, which have but an indirect bearing upon the subject.

The chief difficulty hitherto attending efforts to compile trustworthy statements, especially as to the Flour and Grain Trade, arose from the nature of the information contained in the official returns published by Government. It is gratifying to see that a beginning has been made in the later publications to improve the form as well as the character of the details presented to Parliament; and it is hoped that hereafter the much-needed reform will be carried out in reference to uniformity of detail, so as to enable the commercial community to ascertain with the least possible amount of doubt or ambiguity, particulars of the *entire* import and export trade of the Dominion.

But a new obstacle presents itself. The official tables no longer show the extent of the trade between the Provinces constituting the Dominion. Recourse has, therefore, been had to information respecting inter-Provincial trade derived from unofficial, but nevertheless reliable sources.

Another cause of perplexity is the constant discrepancy which exists in almost all instances between the official statements of the United States and the Canadian Governments, with regard to what might seem to be pure matters of fact. For example:—The records of the United States show that during the fiscal years 1866-'67 and 1867-'68 the quantities of Coal exported to Canada amounted to