

TRADE CONDITIONS  
100 YEARS AGO.

Interesting figures of business in the olden days.

## Profits in privateering.

(BY W. C. MUNRO.)

If one were transported back to the commercial precincts of Halifax, as it existed a hundred years ago—one would meet novel and strange conditions.

Slavery was not then abolished, nor did the proclamation of emancipation take place until 25 years later. Owners of negroes not only traded in their bodies, but seemed to claim a lien on their souls. In 1784, Governor Wentworth had 21 negro slaves baptised in one bunch at St. Paul's church. It was not until 1833 that much option in the matter. Going back a few years prior to that date, we find the governments of the old colonies in America had adopted the bounty system, in order to stimulate the business of getting scalps. Nova Scotia was no exception. In 1765, its Government offered £25 for an Indian scalp. The bounty money was large enough to start out raiding parties to hunt down "to the poor Indian." This was the case at the time of the Revolution, when the bounty was so legitimate that in some cases the aid of the Almighty was invoked by His ministers to make the expeditions seem to be a religious duty. In 1780, a privateer became a partner with pell and patriotism in decimating their brethren.

On the 2nd of July, 1749, Cornwallis landed at Halifax, which was then described as a desolate waste. The next day, one John Shipley obtained a license to sell liquor. The fee was one guinea a month. The more licenses were granted, the more the liquor trade was to flourish. It was the 12th of July before the first public house was opened. The liquor trade was the common resort of all soldiers, sailors and civilians. It was a source of revenue to the Government, and a source of revenue to the privateer. The liquor trade was the common resort of all soldiers, sailors and civilians. It was a source of revenue to the Government, and a source of revenue to the privateer.

## THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC

The importation of rum and brandy into Nova Scotia was a profitable trade. The importation of rum and brandy into Nova Scotia was a profitable trade.

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## REVENUES.

The trade returns of 1813 show:

Value of imports.....\$24,248  
Value of exports.....48,874  
Value of imports in Halifax.....25,284

Duties in 1813.....39,474

Duties in 1812.....26,238

Revenue in 1813.....39,474

Revenue in 1812.....26,238

Brandy and gin.....38,632

Spirits.....49,384

Wine.....24,581

Molasses.....169,647

Sugar (wt).....2,783

Coffee.....42,018

The rate of duty on these articles

still remained at 25 and 5 per cent.

The excise duties were in wine,

in 1813, 1814; and in 1815, 1816;

and in 1817, 1818; and in 1819,

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