

COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES, 1899-1900.

We have received a copy of the advanced sheets issued by the Bureau of Statistics, Treasury Department, Washington, giving details of the commerce and finance of the United States for year ending 30th June last. In acknowledging this courtesy, we must compliment the Bureau upon the early publication of the statistics and the excellent form in which they are arranged. We present a few of the more salient features, which certainly give a remarkable picture of the expansion of the trade of the United States last year.

The following table gives the Imports from various countries in the last four years:—

Countries	1900	1899	1898	1897
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Europe.....	440,509,480	353,884,534	305,933,691	430,192,205
North America.....	129,939,875	112,150,911	91,376,807	105,924,053
South America.....	94,635,134	86,587,893	92,091,694	107,389,405
Asia, &c.....	174,413,065	134,089,091	119,453,823	111,695,036
Africa, &c.....	11,217,116	10,436,060	7,193,639	9,529,713
Total.....	849,714,670	697,148,489	616,949,654	764,730,412
Increase of 1900 over said year.....	152,566,181	233,665,016	84,984,258	

The return of Exports from the States for the same years is as below:—

Countries	1900	1899	1898	1897
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Europe....	1,040,167,312	936,602,093	973,806,245	813,385,644
N. America.....	187,299,318	157,931,707	139,627,841	124,958,461
S. America.....	38,945,721	35,659,902	33,821,701	33,768,646
Asia, &c.....	108,304,911	78,235,176	66,710,813	61,927,678
Africa, &c.....	19,469,109	18,594,424	17,515,730	16,953,127
Totals....	1,394,186,371	1,227,023,302	1,231,482,330	1,050,993,556
Increase of 1900 over each year.....	167,163,069	162,704,041	343,192,815	

The gross increase of the foreign trade of the United States in 1900, over a number of preceding years, was as follows:—

Over 1899.	Over 1898.	Over 1897.	Over 1896.	Over 1895.
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
319,729,250	396,369,057	428,177,073	581,569,429	704,392,911

The movement of gold and silver in the last two years is thus reported:—

	Gold imports.	Gold exports.	Silver imports.	Silver exports.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1900.....	42,829,457	48,266,229	35,236,697	56,812,275
1899.....	88,954,603	37,422,086	30,675,656	56,319,055

Last year the exports of gold were \$75,437,772 greater than the imports; whereas in 1899 the gold imports exceeded the exports by \$51,432,517. The exports of silver last year were \$21,475,578 in excess of imports, and in 1899 the excess of exports of silver was \$25,643,999. The silver exports were strictly of a mercantile character, like wheat; the movement of gold partakes of a financial character, as well as mercantile, being moved to and fro for the purposes of banking reserves, and for international settlements of exchange balances. Although the tariff of the States is very high, we find that a very

large amount of imports came in free of duty; the following shows the respective amounts of those free and those dutiable in 1899 and 1900:—

	Free of Duty.		Dutiable.	
	1900	1899	1900	1899
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Duties collected.....	367,130,226	300,279,210	432,584,444	396,868,679
			233,857,958	206,128,482

An analysis and classification of the Exports show the following results:—

Products of	1900	1899
	\$	\$
Agriculture.....	835,912,952	784,776,142
Manufactures.....	432,284,366	339,592,146
Mining.....	38,997,550	28,156,174
Forest.....	62,309,484	42,126,889
Fisheries.....	6,289,664	5,992,999
Miscellaneous.....	4,682,142	3,286,872
Totals.....	1,370,476,158	1,203,911,222

As Canada has been enjoying a proportionate expansion of trade, we have no reason to regard the above splendid trade returns of our neighbour with any jealousy; indeed, far otherwise, for the conditions favourable to the States make also for the prosperity of Canada.

ELECTRIC DANGER.

An insurance journal of recent date gives forty or more instances of novel trouble and disaster attendant upon the omnipresent conducting electric wire. Not the ordinary, readily understood trouble that results in severe shocks, or death tragedies, or fire scares and fire loss, but of incidents of unexpected demonstration and phenomena that not even electric experts could anticipate and provide for to guarantee safety of person and property. Defective wiring, severed current, surcharged conductor, broken or disjointed insulator, disordered switch, tremendous voltage, deadly third rail, etc., etc.—all are such common sources of annoyance and injury as to command but passing notice, and death or destruction that may ensue are relegated to the category of accidents due to avoidable or easily corrected conditions. But there is a long line of haps and mishaps associated with light and power distribution at once curious, mysterious and alarming, and which greatly adds to public distrust of the "harmless lightning." As for example:

A man engaged in pressing trousers with an electric iron using alternating current made a ground contact somehow and was instantly killed.

A young man carried portable incandescent lamp into toilet room. He grounded the current through his body and was instantly killed.

Current of series are circuit grounded through porcelain. Arc was established and ignited insulation. Fire communicated to wooden beam.

A young man standing upon a register of a hot air furnace attempted to turn on an incandescent lamp. Primary and secondary circuits of transformer were in contact. He somehow escaped death, but several toes on one foot and the thumb and forefinger on