

amounting to £47,817,700, and the exports to them £40,800,700. It will thus be observed that little variation has taken place in the body of trade within the Empire during the past three years. The London Economist commenting upon the above table says: "As compared with 1897, the principal feature of the past six months was a falling off in the value of imports from Australia, due to the smaller quantity and lower price of colonial wool received. The increase in foreign imports was almost entirely due to the greatly increased supplies of American wheat and cotton and the higher price of the former. The adverse movement in our export trade was also, as we show elsewhere, largely consequent upon our trade with the United States, there being slight increases in the value of our exports to most of the European countries, China, Japan, and South America. The improvement in the trade with British possessions was mainly on account of the recovery of India from last year's famine and the consequently increased demand for our cotton piece-goods and other manufactures. There was a smaller gain in exports to Canada, while shipments to South Africa fell off by about half a million in the six months."

BUTTER AND CHEESE.

It is said on good authority that a family using fresh made creamery butter during the winter months will consume a quantity more than twice larger than if a good quality of butter made in the autumn and stored during the winter had been used. This means that the dairymen in operating winter creameries not only obtain higher prices for their product, but contribute to the expansion of the market in which it is sold. Last winter more than 150 creameries were at work, and this form of butter-making may safely be considered beyond the experimental stage. The market is at present largely a home market, it having been estimated that for every pound of butter we send abroad we consume three at home.

In 1880 the value of Canadian butter exported amounted to \$3,058,069; ten years later it had fallen to \$840,131. This radical loss in our trade had been brought about by a change in the taste of the British consumers. From a preference for a strong flavored, but pure butter, they had turned to a mild flavored butter. Canadian butter makers did not alter their methods to suit the new conditions and lost old country foreign customers. That this loss was not seriously felt throughout the Dominion, and accompanied by a corresponding depression in Canadian agriculture, was due to the fact that during the decade rapid development was made in the cheese industry. From a value of \$3,893,866 in 1888 Canadian exports of cheese amounted to \$9,872,212 in 1890. Canadians may now be said to control the cheese markets of Great Britain, exporting to the United Kingdom a quantity greater than that forwarded by all the other colonies and foreign countries taken together. The problem that Prof. J. W. Robertson, Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying, has been attempting to work out is: Can not the interests of the two industries, cheese making and butter making, be harmonized, and instead of devoting Canadian energy exclusively to one industry or the other, is it not possible to carry on both of them.

The British butter markets offer relatively higher prices from October to March than during the rest of the year. If creamery butter making be practicable during the winter it will be at once seen that it would not interfere with the cheese season, which extends from May until October. There were many objections offered to the

winter creamery when it was proposed, such as the impossibility of a regular supply of milk through poor roads, the falling off in the milk given by cows during cold weather and the liability of the cream and milk to become frozen and thus injure the butter. Prof. Robertson in an effort to demonstrate that the winter is a suitable time for making good butter, established two creameries at Woodstock and Mount Elgin in the Province of Ontario. The result is a matter of history which, although interesting, cannot be repeated here.

Canadian dairymen can then, it has been proven, make good butter and good cheese, each in a separate season of the year. There is, we believe, relatively little fault to be found with Canadian cheese, although many of the makers have much to learn, it is more in the matter of butter that we should take special pains to learn and satisfy the tastes of British consumers. They want, according to the Dairy Commissioner, "flesh-flavored, fresh-made butter, without any evidence of staleness. They want also in most markets a butter of mild flavor and not heavily salted. They also want it pale in color, lighter than ordinary straw color at most seasons of the year. In passing I may mention that they are great sticklers for neat, nice-looking, clean, undamaged packages. The demand from all markets to-day is for a finer, a daintier class of goods. People who work in all kinds of factories will not take strong tasting foods, they will not buy strong flavored bacon, and they cannot be tempted, except by a very low price, into buying strong flavored butter or strong flavored cheese."

THE FOREIGN TRADE OF CANADA.

Some weeks ago we gave the Government estimate of the foreign trade of the Dominion during the past year. The Department of Customs has completed its compilation of the trade returns for the fiscal year, ended 30th June last, and has given out a final and corrected statement showing that the total trade of the Dominion for the year was \$304,091,720, of which the exports amounted to \$159,485,770 and imports \$140,305,950. The total trade for 1896-97 amounted to \$257,168,862, so that the increase for the last year is \$46,822,858. The increase in exports was \$25,482,000.

The relative worth of the two markets, the United States and Great Britain, is seen in the returns of the past year. We took from Great Britain \$32,827,000, we sent her \$104,787,000, there being a balance in our favor of \$71,960,000, a condition which is reversed in our trade with the United States. We took from the United States \$86,587,000 worth and sent them in return \$41,122,000, there being an adverse balance in our trade with the Republic of \$45,467,000. Great Britain took from us \$63,664,000 worth of goods more than the United States imported from Canada, and we purchased of the goods of Great Britain \$53,760,000 less than we received from the United States.

These figures are unusually interesting in view of the present discussion as to the trade relations of Canada and the United States. It is often urged that reciprocity with the United States would be a boon to Canada, and it is represented in the words of a prominent Philadelphia trade journal: "An exchange is seriously uneven which opens to the American a market of five million people, while giving the Canadian access to a market of seventy-five millions." This view is held only by those who have not taken the trouble to examine the facts of the case.

Americans by reason of their superior advantages in climate and the enormous capitalization of certain industries, produce many things which are either not attempted in Canada, or are carried on only under the protection of heavy customs duty. Canadians selling in United States markets always meet with strong competition from home producers. It is mainly because the two countries lying side by side consuming States are sometimes nearer producing provinces than producing States, that Canadians are able in some instances to outsell Americans in their own markets. There is not in Canada, if we understand the trend of public opinion in the Dominion, a