

been over 50 per cent. As we stated in our last issue, the West Indies now stand in a critical position, owing to the hostile competition of Germany and France in sugar production, and the situation demands some action by the home government to offset that competition and save a great Colony from disaster. Economic theories must be set aside if they obstruct the measures needful for keeping the West Indies in a solvent and prosperous condition.

TRADE WITH JAPAN.

The Laurier Government is to be commended for having sent a trade Commissioner to Mexico, and to Japan to investigate what openings those countries afford for our products. The Report of Mr. Anderson, who was sent to Japan, shows that there is every disposition on the part of the Japanese to do business with Canada. This, however, is the case with other countries, as the Japanese are making great efforts to extend their foreign trade. In the last ten years the trade of Japan has increased over 300 per cent. This rapid development was largely owing to the sudden rage for railway construction, which always causes a trade boom while it lasts. In a short time, Japan

will have over 3,000 miles of railway in operation, with from 500 to 600 miles under construction. The population is 42,500,000. This would represent an enormous consumption of foreign goods were the Japanese more European in habits and tastes, but, as they are Asiatics, having few wants and being able to subsist on a trifling income, their numbers do not represent possible consumers, as they would in a more civilized country. Still, as this year's imports into Japan will amount to about \$100,000,000, there is an opening for Canadian merchants to share in this trade in exchange for our purchases of tea, silk, porcelain and lacquer goods. Canada needs waking up to the chances of foreign trade, which she has neglected to cultivate, while our southern neighbors have been pushing into every market. We have an excellent "stand," so far as the trade of China, Japan and other Eastern countries is concerned. This trade is fast developing, as the whole of that part of Asia is undergoing a quiet revolution, which in time will develop such habits and tastes in scores of millions of people as will make them consumers of such goods as Canada will be able to supply. It is well to be early on the ground, when such a movement is going on, so Canada needs to make every possible effort to secure a good share of this trade with Eastern Asia.

CITY OF MONTREAL.

TABLE showing assessed value of property, net debt, revenue, population, assets and exemptions from 1868 to 1896.

Compiled from the report of the City Comptroller.

Year.	Value of taxable property (not including non-taxable or exempted property.)	Total Indebtedness.	Cash in Banks, due by Proprietors, etc.	Net Debt.	Ratio of Debt to valuation of taxable property	Population.	Value of Property per capita (on total valuation.)	Net Debt per Capita.	Net Annual Revenue.	Exempted Property.	Assets
	\$	\$	\$	\$			\$	\$	\$	\$	
1868	39,174,120	5,157,386	369,925	4,787,461	10.5	102,150	442	46.86	778,288	6,017,800	
1869	40,913,650	166,630	251,176	4,915,454	10.4	103,840	454	47.33	783,644	6,279,700	
1870	43,202,240	3,322,839	303,832	5,019,037	9.9	105,530	476	47.50	805,656	7,062,200	
1871	45,944,500	5,395,152	253,951	5,141,201	9.6	107,220	497	47.95	848,380	7,258,400	
1872	47,583,260	6,058,969	448,660	5,610,300	10.0	112,020	500	50.00	891,232	8,407,450	
1873	54,319,590	7,718,275	1,215,739	6,502,536	10.3	116,820	540	55.67	1,083,074	9,501,500	
1874	66,164,000	9,763,031	2,064,385	7,698,646	10.9	121,020	575	63.30	1,107,392	9,865,500	
1875	79,253,565	10,285,548	1,241,728	9,043,820	9.9	129,430	718	71.52	1,313,414	11,555,500	
1876	81,208,215	11,658,798	1,494,192	10,164,606	10.8	131,230	716	77.45	1,550,042	12,743,800	
1877	78,401,131	11,751,476	1,084,643	10,666,833	11.7	136,030	669	78.41	1,563,388	12,578,200	
1878	71,302,394	11,598,744	1,190,660	10,408,084	12.1	140,830	610	73.19	1,533,078	14,657,500	
1879	65,595,605	11,692,492	1,397,426	10,295,066	12.9	145,630	546	70.83	1,503,537	13,964,050	
1880	64,625,359	11,730,886	1,538,356	10,192,530	13.0	150,430	521	67.75	1,495,040	13,762,400	
1881	65,978,930	11,693,628	1,512,640	10,180,988	12.8	155,230	514	65.58	1,617,117	13,790,100	
1882	67,846,667	11,874,786	1,808,248	10,066,538	12.3	161,380	508	62.37	1,613,221	14,117,900	
1883	69,800,013	11,734,017	1,804,008	9,929,919	11.8	167,520	502	59.39	1,670,280	14,359,000	
1884	73,003,485	11,855,108	1,995,149	9,859,959	11.1	173,660	508	56.77	1,732,620	15,224,840	
1885	74,276,184	12,534,807	2,339,393	10,195,424	11.3	179,840	500	57.20	1,746,020	15,568,816	
1886	77,937,858	12,817,264	2,510,815	10,297,449	10.9	185,900	508	55.33	1,908,859	16,519,400	
1887	83,836,847	13,655,736	2,851,980	10,803,750	10.6	192,090	530	56.24	1,948,393	17,921,665	
1888	89,634,093	13,067,956	1,797,855	11,270,101	10.3	198,230	548	56.80	2,095,411	19,131,420	
1889	95,913,927	14,283,922	1,188,036	13,095,886	11.3	204,030	566	64.07	2,222,097	19,749,210	
1890	101,979,939	15,734,444	1,236,893	14,497,551	11.8	210,510	583	68.87	2,240,931	20,879,920	
1891	107,247,980	21,993,630	5,384,153	16,609,477	12.9	216,650	592	76.66	2,440,076	21,165,020	
1892	113,463,195	23,522,029	5,344,478	18,177,551	13.3	* 222,000	* 614	* 81.88	2,458,953	22,795,170	
1893	130,834,241	22,850,650	2,854,745	19,995,905	12.1	* 232,000	* 711	* 86.20	2,651,155	34,185,894	
1894	135,268,765	25,838,395	2,523,888	23,314,507	13.6	* 238,000	* 720	* 97.96	2,743,335	35,188,550	
1895	137,872,695	26,684,433	1,638,092	25,046,341	14.3	* 244,000	* 716	* 102.65	2,757,660	35,954,300	
1896	139,969,345	26,478,364	1,397,561	25,081,303	14.2	* 250,000	* 705	* 100.32	2,866,061	36,267,765	

* Estimated. There have been no census returns since 1891, therefore any ratio or deduction in which the population enters can only be approximate.