

The British Columbia Mills Timber & Trading Company

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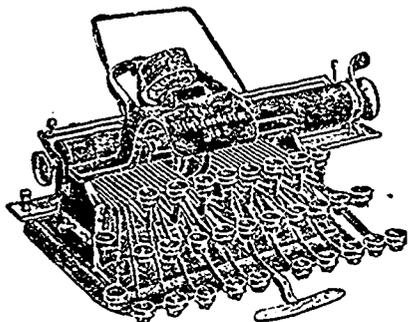
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Expanding Trade.

Ottawa, March 18.—The official record of the foreign trade of Canada, made up to March 1, shows an increase of \$37,000,000, and increased revenue from customs duties of \$1,438,000 over the same period of last year. The stimulus of new and increased trade is shown in both imports and exports. The total imports for eight months of the fiscal year, exports and duties collected, compared with the corresponding eight months of 1897, are as follows:

	1897.	1898.
Imports	\$73,278,000	\$ 83,785,000
Exports	93,192,000	119,644,000
Total trade	\$166,471,000	\$203,430,000

Duty collected \$	12,711,000	\$ 14,150,000
Produce of Canada export- ed... ..	82,336,000	105,938,000

The returns for the month of February are extremely satisfactory, the figures being: Imports, \$10,037,000, as compared with \$7,710,000 the year before, and exports \$8,369,000, as compared with \$6,590,000, or a total trade for the month of February, 1898, of \$18,467,000, as against \$14,301,000 for the previous year. The revenue for February alone from customs duties was \$1,951,000, against \$1,580,000 for the same month last year, an increase for the month of \$371,000.

Duties paid in full on goods imported that were entitled to the benefit of the reciprocal tariff have been refunded to the total amount of \$120,000, which should be deducted from the increase of revenue mentioned above, thus leaving a net increase of customs revenue for eight months of \$1,318,000. These claims for refund have all been met.

Some of the benefits which British Columbia is enjoying from the Klondike rush are reflected in the trade returns. For the month of February the total imports of the whole province amounted to \$623,000, as against \$411,000 for the same month last year, and the customs revenue to \$148,000, as against \$103,000 for the same month last year.

The imports of Victoria rose from \$138,000 to \$300,000 during the month, and the revenue collected at that port from customs increased from \$39,000 to \$73,000. The revenue collected at Vancouver for the month increased from \$26,000 to \$41,000.