

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF FRANCE

(From the London Economist.)

CUSTOMS returns just issued show that in the ten months of this year compared with last, the commerce of France, — that is, her imports for consumption, and her exports of her own productions, was extremely prosperous — and yet we have heard loud complaints of the depression of trade, and have even, and such, masses of coin and bullion lying unemployed in banks. The following is a detail of the value of imports and exports —

First ten months of 1895	Imports of France	Exports of France
1895	2,480,158,000	2,291,698,000
1894	2,181,195,000	2,482,753,000
1893	2,067,731,000	2,483,350,000
1892	2,021,142,000	2,157,791,000
1891	1,834,455,000	1,845,225,000

It will be seen that the augmentation year by year is remarkable, and that for the present year it is much greater compared with last than for any other epoch. It will also be noticed that the exports have continually exceeded the imports.

Subjoined is a detail of some of the principal imports —

	First ten months of 1895	First ten months of 1894	First ten months of 1893
Grain and flour	2,881,000	14,890,000	10,871,000
Sugar	7,937,000	10,200,000	10,457,000
Coffee	7,598,000	9,326,000	6,017,000
Olive oil	10,674,000	18,799,000	6,520,000
Wool	2,050,000	2,784,000	2,480,000
Hides and skins	3,935,000	3,214,000	5,029,000
Wool	2,513,000	2,121,000	1,825,000
Silk	2,915,000	2,627,000	2,319,000
Flax	4,984,000	5,444,000	1,239,000
Cotton	4,451,000	23,688,000	27,840,000
Oilseeds	3,140,000	5,069,000	47,110,000
Timber	10,450,000	9,249,000	9,119,000
Staves	582,000	222,000	1,783,000
Coal	11,241,000	13,375,000	9,939,000
Copper	4,235,000	3,127,000	4,841,000
Cotton yarn	3,118,000	745,000	4,112,000
Woolen yarn	1,120,000	11,520,000	9,330,000
Woolen tissues	3,588,000	33,260,000	27,200,000
Cotton tissues	2,130,000	8,211,000	8,520,000

In the above table the increase in cotton yarn and tissues will attract special attention.

The principal exports of French productions were as follow —

	First ten months of 1895	First ten months of 1894	First ten months of 1893
Silk tissues	4,021,000	3,975,000	3,418,000
Woolen tissues	2,885,000	2,758,000	3,067,000
Cotton tissues	50,000	7,100,000	8,075,000
Flax and hemp tissues	2,524,000	2,858,000	1,915,000
Prepared skins	612,000	4,721,000	5,220,000
Articles in skin and leather	9,217,000	7,200,000	7,250,000
Tools and articles in metal	3,115,000	3,258,000	3,070,000
Turnery, mercury, but-tons, &c.	1,631,000	1,331,500	1,475,000
Mineral and artificial flowers	2,573,000	1,830,000	1,020,000
Ready-made clothes and union	1,038,000	5,241,000	8,840,000
Refined sugar	5,875,000	7,015,000	5,284,000
Chemical productions	5,927,000	15,069,000	3,724,000
Grain and flour	14,810,000	2,587,000	4,502,000
Wines	2,520,000	2,912,000	19,407,000
Brandy and spirits	4,249,000	4,172,000	6,126,000
Olive oil	4,257,000	2,267,000	1,678,000
Eggs	3,210,000	2,351,000	2,496,000
Butter	6,270,000	4,820,000	3,233,000
Wool	5,208,000	2,520,000	4,180,000
Silk	8,592,000	1,075,000	8,878,000
Cotton	5,115,000	4,622,000	4,840,000

All other exports were of less than 25,000,000 f in value in the ten months of 1895. Cotton is counted as a French production, from having had import duty paid on it.

The following were the imports and exports of the precious metals, which are not included in the preceding totals:—

	First ten months of 1895	First ten months of 1894	First ten months of 1893
Gold in bars	14,479,000	48,375,000	52,038,000
Gold coin	5,552,000	27,000,000	2,514,000
Silver bullion	61,142,000	72,100,000	5,090,000
Silver coin	14,324,000	12,700,000	17,500,000
	93,228,000	159,175,000	77,142,000
Exports			
Gold bullion	4,725,000	3,222,000	2,114,221
Gold coin	21,800,000	1,000,000	2,514,000
Silver bullion	9,000,000	4,125,000	11,000,000
Silver coin	9,712,000	5,942,000	1,745,000
	45,237,000	14,269,000	27,373,221

It thus appears that in the first ten months of the present year the imports exceeded the exports by 45,237,000 f — 413,823,000 f. The country from which the largest quantity of gold was brought was England — 12,000,000 f in bullion, 15,000,000 f in coin, that which contributed the next greatest supply was Italy — 3,871,000 f in bullion, 13,352,000 f in coin. From the Zollverein there came 8,084,000 f in coin, and a small quantity of bullion, and from the United States about 25,000,000 f of the two. In the imports of silver Eng-

land figured for 23,920,310 f of bullion, 29,692,644 f of coin. Spain contributed 34,716,820 f of coin, and the United States 1,670,400 f. In the exports of gold England took 957,000 f of bullion, 86,022,435 f of coin. Italy 50,928,300 f of coin, Egypt 2,680,800 f of ditto, and the United States 2,634,400 f of silver. England took 2,422,000 f of bullion, 1,131,922 f of coin; British India 37,317,600 f of the former, 25,466,000 f of the latter; China 420,000 f, and 4,030,900 f.

Oats for Great Britain.

A Lower Province paper states that large quantities of Oats are being exported to Great Britain from France, 1,000,000 lbs. and 4 bags, 1 barque, and 1 each, as well as from Summersville with ear goes for that destination.

GOLD MINING IN NOVA SCOTIA.—The quarterly return from the Department of Mines in Nova Scotia shows the number of gold mines being worked, the number of men engaged in mining, the quantity of quartz crushed, with the average per ton, and the total yield of gold, etc., in the various gold districts, for the months of July, August, and September, of this year. The Halifax *Colonist* summarizes the operations thus:—

During the month of July 68 mines were in operation—employing 714 men, with a total yield of gold of 217.5 oz. 34wt. 3gr. The August return shows a total of 77 mines in operation, employing 718, and yielding 217.3 oz. 34wt. of gold. In both these returns the Waverly diggings furnish the highest average. In the former month with 9 mines in operation, and the employment of 591 men, 842 oz. 10wt. 12gr. was produced; and in the latter month, 371 men produced 978 z 15wt. 21gr. In September 74 mines were being worked; employing 668 men, and producing 253 oz. 34wt. 3gr. Sherbrooke makes the highest return this month. The 70 men employed in working 12 mines at that place give a return of 854 oz. 34wt. 3gr. The total yield for the quarter is 718.4 oz. 34wt. 16gr., against 690.5 oz. 34wt. 3gr. for the corresponding quarter of 1895. The total yield for the twelve months up to the 31st September, amounts to 24,162 oz. 34wt. 11gr. The principal districts from which the gold is taken are—St. Amant, Isaac's Harbor, Wine Harbor, Sherbrooke, Langier, Montagu, Waverly, Oldham, and Redrow. The unproclaimed and other districts yielded for the quarter, 82 oz. 34wt. 10gr.

More Coal Discoveries.

The Halifax *Citizen* says:—We are informed that Mr. Kirby has discovered the Albion Mines north east of coal on the east side of the East River, in the rear of the town of New Glasgow, and less than half a mile from the Provincial railway. The coal is said to be of a quality superior to that worked by the General Mining Association, and in a position very favorable for successful mining. This is probably one of the most important discoveries of coal made within the year.

The *Eastern Chronicle* says that Messrs. Logan & Maxwell have leased the Coal Brook Mine from Mr. Kirby, and are making preparations to take coal out of the new slope at the Brook, back of New Glasgow. They have a five-horse power engine on the ground, and expect to be able to supply customers with coal in the early part of next week. The coal is of a good quality, being very suitable for domestic purposes. We may add that this seam leased to Messrs. Logan & Maxwell, is one of many owned in the same locality by the Merigomish Coal Mining Company, one of which, discovered within the last three weeks, is thirty feet in thickness.

BESSEMER STEEL.—LAKE SUPERIOR IRON.—Various experiments made to determine the tenacity of Bessemer steel, have shown that while wrought iron will bear from 4,000 to 60,000 pounds per square inch, and the best common steel 93,000 to 124,900 pounds, Bessemer steel will resist a pressure about twice that of wrought iron and nearly as much as the best cast steel. Four experiments with Bessemer steel, as compared with the best common steel, resulted as follows:

No. 1 broke at.....	117,133 lbs.	per square inch.
No. 2 do.....	117,343 lbs.	do do
No. 3 do.....	101,233 lbs.	do do
No. 4 do.....	121,311 lbs.	do do
Best common steel broke at.....	114,000 lbs.	do do

Bessemer says that the softest Bessemer steel is at least as strong as the best Swedish chain iron, and its strength increases with the per centage of carbon to one per cent, when it is equal to about double the strength of the best chain iron.

In making Bessemer steel, two qualities are observable, which distinguish it from wrought iron, first, it is completely clear of slag, and second, it may be welded at a much lower temperature. When rolled or hammered this steel is completely homogeneous. The rough, bumpy, sometimes has bubbles in them; but since the walls of these bubbles are entirely clear of oxide or slag they weld together under the roller or hammer so thoroughly, that when the bar is broken not the slightest trace of them can be found.

It may not be improper in this connection to state that the quality of the Lake Superior iron is conceded to be superior to any iron in the world, as is shown by the following analysis, giving the strength per pound:—
Ladbury, Conn. iron..... 58.00
Sweden, best..... 58.12
E. gash, cable..... 53.15
Center Co. N. Y..... 54.90
Lesse Co. N. Y..... 53.90
Lancaster Co. Pa..... 56.93
Conn. English and American..... 5.00
Lake Superior..... 59.52
—Mining and Scientific Press.

BRITISH GRAIN AVERAGES.—The following is a statement showing the quantities sold and the average price of British corn (Imperial measure) as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise, conformably to the Act of the 27th and 28th Victoria, cap. 87, in the week ended Dec. 1, 1895:—

	Quantities Sold.	Average Prices.
	qrs. bush.	s. d.
Wheat.....	69,909 4	60 0
Barley.....	74,234 7	45 10
Oats.....	6,284 4	25 5

The following is a comparative statement, for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1862 to 1895, of the quantities of British corn sold in the towns from which returns are received under the Act of the 27th and 28th Victoria, cap. 87, and of the average prices as ascertained under the Act 15th and 16th Victoria, cap. 14, so far as relates to 1862, 1863, 1864:—

	Wheat.	Barley.	Average Prices.
	qrs. bush.	qrs. bush.	s. d. s. d.
1862.....	64,836 0	91,375 6	47 8 35 4
1863.....	55,963 4	96,010 6	40 3 33 7
1864.....	81,026 2	81,725 5	38 8 29 3
1895.....	78,676 4	84,981 3	46 6 33 10

LONDON TIMBER STOCKS.—The annexed statement, showing the stocks of timber in London, is from Messrs. Churchill and Son's circular:—

STOCK OF TIMBER, DEALS, &c., at the P. R. L. Docks on Dec. 1.

	1895	1895	1894
Foreign deals	pieces 2,321,000	2,310,000	1,905,000
Battens and boards	1,200,000	2,410,000	1,750,000
Fir Timber.....	loads 81,590	20,500	61,400
Colonial pine deals and battens	pieces 1,315,000	1,118,000	525,000
Spruce ditto.....	loads 750,000	850,000	730,000
Pine timber	loads 6,800	13,000	12,700
East Indian teak	loads 32,400	25,200	11,500

Duncan Ewing & Co's. Timber Report says the market has assumed a firmer tone, consequent upon the now ascertained fact that the supply of Quebec White Pine will be considerably less than in the preceding year, or even an average of the four previous years to this. With a fair consumption here and the increased cost abroad the present rates, if not further enhanced are likely to be maintained for the remainder of the season. Spruce Deals have advanced in value to about 45 per standard for St. John's, and other descriptions in proportion; but any rapid rise is easily checked by the cheaper productions of the North of Europe.

TRADE WITH WEST INDIES.—A gentleman belonging to an extensive West India firm, is here this week and has, we are informed, entered into large contracts with several of our leading merchants. His visit will, no doubt, give an impetus to the trade of this port with the West Indies.—*Sackville (N. S.) Recorder.*

Sheep and Wool in the U. S.

A Western paper states that careful estimates, based on the census returns, make the present number of sheep 31,000,000, and the wool product 55,000,000 pounds—an increase of 7,523,725 sheep in the five years last past, against an increase of 748,655 the previous ten years, and of 21,735,877 pounds of wool the last five years, against 7,747,854 pounds the previous ten years.

COBBOURG AND PETERBORO RAILWAY.—GLORIOUS NEWS!—The *Marmora* Iron stands the test, and is pronounced the *closest grained iron in the world!*—We offer our sincerest congratulations to the active men in the movement to resuscitate our Railway, and to our readers generally, both in town and country. Cobourg seems destined, at last, to take a new start in the race for superiority, with her sister towns, and it is time, we think, with the best chance of winning. The smelting of the *Almora* Iron Ore took place about three weeks ago in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was pronounced, by the scientific men who witnessed it, a perfect success. Mr. J. H. Dumble was telegraphed for and went to New York, and the report now is that the money for the completion of the road will be sent forward at once.

Whilst exulting in our own good luck, we may be permitted to rejoice in the good fortune of our neighbours. Mr. Covert, it is reported, has sold out for a handsome sum to responsible parties, and has thus, in the very nick of time, got rid of the elephant. It now remains to be seen whether our Company or the Port Hope concern, has the greater pluck and the larger purse.—*Cobourg Sentinel.*

The Picton Railway.

The *Picton Standard* says that the inspectors of masonry and most of the sectional engineers engaged during the past summer on the Picton Railway have been officially informed, that in consequence of the works under their charge being completed, their services may now be dispensed with. The ballasting of the road, the laying on of the ties and rails, the drainage, the finishing of the masonry, and the dressing of the slopes still remain to be done.

Consumption of Herrings.

A correspondent of the *Quebec Chronicle* states that 23,441 bbls of Herrings were received at that port in 1895, and 21,603 in 1894, an increase this year of 10.62, also that a house in the Montreal Trade sold upwards of 23,000 bbls. this season.