

the most economical method of heating can scarcely admit of doubt. If the idea of Siemens be realized, the time will come when coal will cease to be moved from the pits at all, when it will be converted on the spot into gas to be pumped through pipes to the point of consumption. In the ordinary methods of heating, there is great waste and corresponding cost. The greatest reform in connection with household economy will be one that shall utilize all the caloric which coal is capable of producing, besides obtaining a large addition from the admixture of steam.

The contest between gas and the electric light, for illuminating purposes, is not yet decided; but if the decision were to be finally in favor of the electric light, gas would even then, so far from having run its course, be only just entering on the second and more important phase of its existence as a means of producing heat.

EXPORTS TO FRANCE.

The trade of Canada with France, as shown by the official figures derived from our *Blue Book* for the fiscal year 1884, does not increase. It is, in extent, just about what it was a dozen years ago. This year the falling off is greater in our exports than in our imports, but both have declined. The figures are: Exports to France, \$399,055; Imports from France, \$1,769,849. Total trade \$2,160,804. Into what provinces our purchases from France came, the following table will show:—

IMPORTS FROM FRANCE.		
	Value 1883.	Value 1884.
Quebec	\$1,583,113	\$1,148,313
Ontario	533,445	458,460
New Brunswick....	78,965	68,949
Nova Scotia.....	69,325	58,920
Manitoba.....	32,693	18,457
British Columbia....	13,894	10,606
P. E. Island	5,042	6,144

Total \$2,316,477 \$1,769,849
A falling-off in imports from France is shown by every province but P. E. Island. Let us now see how exports will compare by provinces:

EXPORTS TO FRANCE.		
	Value 1883.	Value 1884.
New Brunswick.....	\$283,845	\$308,926
Quebec.....	216,355	44,520
P. E. Island.....	65,709
Nova Scotia.....	49,015	31,288
Ontario.....	519	3,428
Total	\$615,443	\$388,162

As to what goods we sent to France, it was shown in these columns that in 1883 deals was the largest item, then grain, ships and lobsters in their order. Last year deals was again the largest, but grain has almost disappeared from the list, which is as follows in the fiscal year 1884:

Deals.....	13,877 st. hd.	\$337,899
Deal ends.....	490 " "	7,478
Scantling.....	310 in. ft.	2,162
Square Timber, pine..	647 tons.	9,584
Lobsters	152,168 bs.	14,905
Coal	471 tons	942
Peas	895 bush.	1,822
Other articles (field)..		926
Sewing Machines	72	680
Ships (2)	860 tons	11,764

Of the products named above, Nova Scotia furnished the ships, the coal and part of the lobsters; Ontario the sewing machines and peas; New Brunswick and Quebec, the

lumber and timber. There were not, as in a previous year, any potashes, hemlock bark extract, or other manufactures, nor any rye nor wheat, sent from our shores to France.

We have tabulated the principal items of import by Canada from France last year and compared them with our purchases during the year previous. It will be seen that the falling off is general:

	1884.	1883.
Brandy	\$356,739	\$538,401
Wines (still)	64,453	147,448
Calfskin, &c	80,587	127,355
Other leather	70,686	105,985
Champagne.....	92,308	103,360
Kid gloves	35,778	96,969
Woollen goods	55,409	80,993
Silk goods	60,668	70,188
Flowers and feathers....	45,713	64,618
Laces and braids	30,135	63,628
Dried prunes	44,023	63,325
Books and pamphlets	36,631	45,964
Bibles and prayer books	25,065	31,292
Fancy goods	31,730	31,254
Tobacco pipes.....	14,012	30,963
China and porcelain.....	17,747	25,596
Glass and glassware.....	17,011	24,708
Filberts and walnuts	20,644	24,160
Almonds	20,730	18,846
Buttons	12,703	21,380
Cotton goods	28,403
Glue	18,941	19,831
Cologne and bay rum	18,389	19,081

Values of minor items imported during the fiscal year 1884 were as under: Blacking, \$4,874; suspenders, \$2,472; brass manufactures, \$11,000; maccaroni, &c., \$1,690; brushes, \$18,686; sperm candles, \$890; jewel cases, \$2,181; clocks, \$5,466; corkwood; glycerine, \$6,091; pat. medicines, \$4,419; drugs, &c., \$4,180; embroideries, \$3,739; fish, preserved, \$5,720; furs and m'fs of, \$5,796; rubber goods, \$3,970; hats and bonnets, \$14,309; iron and steel goods, \$9,766; jewellery, \$8,160; boots and shoes, \$4,390; olive and other oils, \$11,480; optical instruments, \$10,639; paintings and drawings, \$5,200; paints, \$2,925; paper and m'fs. of, \$14,002; perfumery, \$3,267; seeds and roots, \$14,615; soap, \$7,360; watches, &c., \$17,026; wood goods, \$14,028.

FIELD PRODUCTS AND FARM ANIMALS OF ONTARIO.

The quantity of land under cultivation in Ontario, according to the Bureau of Industries, shows a moderate increase. Here the comparison is confined to two years, and the measure is in value not in quantity; last year the value was \$625,478, 706, this year it is \$626,422,024, an increase in round number of \$1,100,000. The value of farm buildings declined from \$182,447,000 to \$173,386,000. Stock, one of the tangible items of the wealth of the country, rose from \$103,106,829 to \$108,159,740. But here the advance was not along the whole list. Working horses, brood mares, unbroken horses, all showed an increase; the total advance being from \$585,958 to \$558,809. In working oxen, a relict of the early stages of agriculture, there was, as might have been expected, a decline, the figures being \$16,793 against 15,302; milch cows increased from 710,519 to 750,005; store cattle over two years of age showed a decrease from 384,453 to 373,856, probably accounted for in part by drafts made by the North-West on the existing supply of Ontario. "Young and other cattle" is a dubious phrase, it may mean young and

old, and in any case it is wanting in definiteness, but on the supposition that it chiefly means young cattle, the increase from 813,905 to 837,317, is a hopeful indication for the future. What we learn about sheep is not satisfactory. There is a decline in the whole number from 1,800,733 to 1,755,605. The only increase in sheep is in the fine woolled, which is in the right direction, over one year old; but the guarantee for the continuance of this progress is absent in the unwelcome fact that there has been a decrease in fine-woolled sheep under one year old, from 123,788 to 122,643, a most undesirable retrogression. There is a decrease in the whole number of hogs from 916,158 to 822,262, the greater part being in hogs under a year old. This does not promise well for the keeping up, to say nothing of the progressive increase of the supply. In poultry of all kinds there is a slight decline. But, on the whole, it may safely be said that Ontario is making steady progress in the chief elements of her wealth.

TORONTO TRADE.

The Board of Trade returns for November last show the imports at Toronto for that month to have been of the value of \$1,187,169 and the exports \$548,435 in value. Total trade, \$1,685,604, which is rather under the average aggregate of three previous years. We append comparisons of the values of leading articles:

	Nov. 85.	Nov. 84.
Cotton Goods.....	\$38,434	\$59,038
Fancy ".....	19,340	20,235
Hats and Bonnets.....	6,427	5,001
Silk Goods.....	14,393	28,431
Woollen Goods.....	65,204	63,955

Total dry goods....	\$143,798	\$176,660
Books and Pamphlets	\$34,688	\$36,859
Coal and Coke.....	164,079	206,166
Drugs and Med.....	13,997	15,875
Fruits and nuts.....	54,965	43,398
Glass and Glassware.....	37,744	16,215
Iron and Steel goods.....	110,391	99,342
Jewellery and Watches..	18,314	29,602
Leather goods.....	25,689	20,805
Paper goods.....	28,308	21,879

Exports from Toronto last month exceeded those of the previous November by about \$70,000. Animals and barley are the items which mainly caused the increase.

EXPORTS.

	Nov. 85.	Nov. 85.
The Forest	\$16,674	\$31,826
Animals, &c	141,753	81,558
Fisheries	6	391
Field Products	360,050	330,476
Manufactures	24,420	24,571
Miscellaneous.....	325	1,786
	\$543,228	\$470,608

HAMILTON BOARD OF TRADE.

A quarterly meeting of the Hamilton board of trade was held in the board room on the 7th inst. Mr. T. H. Macpherson, president, in the chair; about forty members present, among them Hon. Jas. Turner, W. E. Sanford, Adam Brown, Alex. Turner, J. H. Park, Geo. E. Tuckett, Chas. Hope, St. C. Balfour, John Cameron, James Watson, A. T. Wood, W. F. Findlay, W. H. Gillard, W. G. Reid, John Eastwood.

The first question brought up was that of Hamilton and North Western Railway accommodation.