

feel very indisposed to offer more than 7s. per long hundred, a price at which it is practically impossible to obtain Canadian eggs, that is, unless the prices here go down to a very marked extent.

The receipts of butter in city markets are increasing. The market, however, continues very firm in both Montreal and Toronto, especially considering the season of the year at which we have now arrived. The dealers are buying cautiously, as they anticipate a drop at any time. It is likely, however, that the receipts will have to increase very decidedly before any marked decline can take place.

The cheese market continues firm, and prices are likely to remain at a high range until the new cheese comes forward. Stocks are believed to be light.

Great firmness is shown by the market for hog products of all kinds. Long clear bacon and lard are held particularly firmly, with a slight advance over last year's quotations. The supply of hogs available does not appear to be sufficient for the packers' requirements, and high prices are anticipated for some time to come. According to the Cincinnati Price-Current, the total number of hogs killed in commercial channels during the past twelve months has been exceeded only in a single instance, for the year ending March 1st, 1902, the number for the summer season in that year being 1,609,000 greater than for the past summer season, while the record for the winter season now closed exceeds the corresponding period of that year by 116,000. For the past year, says that journal, the total western packing represents 23,318,000 hogs, compared with 22,375,000 for the preceding year; 25,411,000 for the year of high record, ending March 1st, 1902, and compared with an annual average of 20,599,000 for ten years prior to the past year.



THE MARCH FIRE WASTE.

It would be a pleasing thing could we congratulate our readers on a very greatly lessened fire loss for the first three months of this year. But that is not possible. We may be thankful that March is no worse, but its fire record is two millions greater than the average of the last four years, while February and January were destructive.

The fire loss of the United States and Canada for the month of March, as shown by the "Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin," makes a total of \$14,715,400. The following table gives a comparison of the losses by months:—

	1903.	1904.	1905.
January	\$13,166,350	\$21,790,200	\$16,378,100
February	16,090,800	90,051,000	25,591,000
March	9,907,650	11,202,150	14,715,400
Total 3 months..	\$39,164,800	\$123,043,350	\$56,684,500
April	13,549,000	23,623,000	.....
May	16,366,800	15,221,400	.....
June	14,648,350	10,646,700	.....
July	12,838,600	11,923,200	.....
August	8,428,350	9,715,200	.....
September	9,939,450	14,387,650	.....
October	10,409,800	12,866,200	.....
November	13,589,550	11,515,000	.....
December	17,224,700	19,422,350	.....
Total 12 months.	\$156,195,600	\$252,364,050	.....

The heavy fires recorded during the month of March were at Cedar Rapids, Brockton, and Connellsville. During the month there were 252 fires of a destructiveness, each, of \$10,000 or more, in the States and Canada.

CANADA'S IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Gradually the information given by the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce is being added to and improved. The monthly reports are a convenience to many, and the still more frequent bulletins from our trade agents abroad are welcomed by exporting merchants. In the December report we find, under the heading of General Commercial Information, a statement showing the values of the principal articles imported by Canada and exported from Canada for thirteen years past. We have taken these principal items for 1895—1900—and 1904, and compared them below; we venture to think they will be found interesting.

The total imports into Canada for the year 1895 were \$106,205,062; in 1900 they were \$181,325,075; in 1904, \$251,337,490—a comfortable ratio of growth.

Exports from Canada totalled \$109,313,484 in 1895; \$183,237,555 in 1900; and \$211,055,678 in 1904.

The principal items of import and export were:—

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS INTO CANADA.

	1895.	1900.	1904.
Cement	\$257,847	\$520,593	\$985,222
Coal and coke	9,199,807	11,656,449	21,562,053
Cotton and mfrs. of	7,886,463	11,503,360	15,508,930
Drugs and chemicals	2,761,161	4,126,271	5,943,855
Electric apparatus	389,365	875,328	2,435,376
Fancy goods	1,444,000	1,895,351	3,124,170
Flax and jute goods	2,357,511	3,623,311	4,344,394
Fruits	2,505,986	3,697,996	4,925,499
Hides and skins	1,966,620	4,219,399	4,916,222
Metals and mfrs. of	12,331,421	36,656,885	51,839,065
Paper and mfrs. of	982,201	1,426,305	2,624,319
Precious stones	278,798	629,934	1,217,514
Rubber goods	1,162,199	2,853,334	3,492,569
Silk goods	2,369,523	4,214,058	4,135,455
Spirits and wines	1,250,076	1,983,591	2,648,162
Sugar and molasses	9,262,931	9,014,209	9,819,191
Tea	3,115,324	3,611,014	4,695,440
Tobacco	1,684,455	2,157,824	3,504,775
Wool and mfrs. of	9,116,820	11,728,019	16,854,931
Other goods .....	.....	.....	.....
Total	\$106,205,062	\$181,325,075	\$251,337,490

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS FROM CANADA.

	1895.	1900.	1904.
Animals living	\$10,357,479	\$12,330,002	\$12,819,184
Breadstuffs	13,062,529	31,289,893	32,240,465
Carriages and carts	77,253	255,638	444,935
Coal and charcoal	3,807,991	4,808,114	4,670,178
Cotton and mfrs. of	601,180	483,345	871,970
Drugs and chemicals	280,077	396,992	1,417,491
Fish and products	9,647,826	10,636,517	10,275,603
Fruits	2,440,889	3,384,013	5,594,444
Fur and mfrs. of	2,823,685	2,371,752	2,662,110
Hay	1,540,251	1,414,119	1,898,068
Hides and skins	980,418	1,407,202	2,100,020
Leather and mfrs. of	1,376,660	1,889,507	2,427,270
Metals and mfrs. of	4,254,621	23,150,859	34,826,962
Musical instruments	310,847	547,529	367,150
Provisions	21,496,054	41,031,513	46,472,132
Seeds	932,474	1,406,960	1,557,045
Spirits and wines	353,088	410,431	720,014
Vegetables	664,806	506,516	1,422,626
Wood and mfrs. of	25,334,136	32,998,171	36,966,264
Other goods	2,814,345	1,974,248	1,936,551
Total	\$109,313,484	\$183,237,555	\$211,055,678

OUR IMPORTS.

Among these items of import a few attract attention from their rapid growth. For instance, we