

CANADA VESSELS BUILDING.					
Steamers .....	1	.....	410	.....	\$28,700
Sail.....	7	.....	3,450	.....	136,800
Total.....	8	.....	3,860	.....	\$165,500
		Number.	Tonnage.		Value.
Present United States tonnage.....	1,165	...	309,652	...	\$9,447,850
Vessels building.....	57	...	30,959	...	1,640,905
Present Canada tonnage.....	336	...	71,505	...	2,414,000
Vessels building.....	8	...	3,150	...	165,500
Total of all kinds.....	1,567	...	415,546	...	\$13,668,808

### EXPORTS OF THE PRODUCE OF CANADA IN 1861.

	Great Britain.	D. N. A.	U. S.	Total.
Produce of the mine.....	£400	—	—	£400
Produce of the fisheries.....	1,310	—	£5,728	7,038
Produce of the forest.....	762,178	£2,169	75,867	840,214
Animals, their products....	631,091	54,103	292,448	978,810
Agricultural products.....	7,877,959	335,728	284,507	8,502,063
Manufactures .....	58,496	7,003	18,189	83,688
Other articles.....	2,008	—	1,526	3,534
Total value of exports, '61....	9,333,442	399,003	678,265	10,415,718
“ “ “ “ ‘60....	4,868,893	202,440	943,552	6,020,715

These figures show an increase in the aggregate of the value of the exports of nearly 100 per cent. over 1860, and this, too, notwithstanding the falling off in the exports to the United States, and which, compared with the previous year, shows a decrease of about 40 per cent.

### PETROLEUM.

Nothing has given us more satisfaction for some months past than to record from time to time the additional sources of petroleum which have been discovered in Canada and elsewhere. It appears after all that the importation and distribution of this substance in this country is not an unmixed blessing. Petroleum cannot be transported, bonded and handled, unaccompanied with danger. On Friday last a deputation from some of the principal fire insurance companies in the metropolis waited, by appointment, upon the Lord Mayor, at the Justice-room of the Mansion-house, with the view of bringing under his notice this subject. The gentlemen composing the deputation were Mr. Lovell, secretary of the Phoenix; Mr. Sidney J. Fletcher, secretary of the Sun; Mr. Thomas B. Bateman, representing the London; Mr. John B. Johnston, secretary to the Royal; and Mr. John Atkins, of the Liverpool and London Fire and Life Insurance Companies. Mr. Lovell said they had sought the interview to call particular attention to this new product, which was being very largely imported into this country, and particularly the metropolis, which was likely to be still more largely imported, and which contained an element of danger unknown to any other substance. Petroleum was in the highest degree combustible, and threw off an inflammable explosive vapour at ordinary temperature, and even at a very low temperature. On Thursday, which was a cold wet day, it ignited on a light being held to it an inch from the surface. It floated upon, and would not mix with water, and therefore water would not extinguish it. It was exceedingly volatile, and spread rapidly over the surface of water, burning fiercely when ignited. From statistics in possession of the fire-offices, it appeared that there were now lying at one wharf alone on the Thames, 7,000 casks, containing 210,000 gallons of this extremely inflammable oil; at

another place 3,000 barrels, each barrel containing 46 gallons. These had been landed from one single ship, and if any fire should approach this mass of inflammable and explosive fluid, shipping on the river and property along its banks and in the docks would be placed in jeopardy, and the most disastrous results might occur.

Mr. Lovell said the deputation had taken the opinions of Dr. Letheby, Mr. Miller, of King's College, and Mr. Warrington, of Apothecaries'-hall, with regard to the substance in question. Dr. Letheby reported to them that:—"The raw petroleum gives off inflammable vapour at ordinary temperature, and this is explosive when mixed with atmospheric air, and will fire at a distance of an inch and a half from the surface of the liquid. The specific gravity of the liquid is 808.6, water being 1,000" and it boils at 212, rising to 266 of Fahrenheit." Mr. Miller stated that:—"The brown sample labelled 'crude' when poured into a shallow dish, of a temperature of 60 Fahrenheit, takes fire on the approach of a light, the vapour taking fire at an inch or more from the surface of the liquid. This crude oil is somewhat lighter than water, and consequently floats upon it. When poured upon water at 60°, it takes fire on the approach of a light to within about an inch of the surface and burns with great violence. If a teaspoonful of the oil be poured upon a saucer full of water five inches across, on setting fire to it the heat evolved as it burns is sufficient to make the water boil briskly at the surface. I have no hesitation in saying that I do consider such storage in the highest degree dangerous for the causes above-mentioned, and I think that stringent measures should be at once taken to prevent it." Again, Mr. Warrington reported that:—"Raw petroleum has a specific gravity 812 and gives off inflammable vapour continuously at the ordinary temperature of the atmosphere—58 to 60°. In these experiments the lighted match was held about half an inch above the surface of the liquid under trial. As both fluids are lighter than water, and are not mixable with it, they will necessarily float upon its surface without any modification of their properties." Mr. Lovell added, that about a quarter of a million of gallons was stored in the Isle of Dogs in the crude state, which, as had been shown, was highly inflammable. Mr. Lovell enquired of the Lord Mayor whether he could not interfere in the matter. The Lord Mayor said, as chairman of the Board of Conservators of the Thames he had no judicial functions, but as chief magistrate of the city of London, if they brought before him a case where there was any great quantity of this material deposited within his jurisdiction, it would probably be competent for him to interfere in the public interest, because there could be no doubt whatever, if what Mr. Lovell had said was an accurate representation of the facts, that the knowledge of such great quantities of inflammable matter being stored in any particular place would naturally excite terror in the minds of the people whenever the circumstance became known, and that on the authority of Lord Campbell in "the Queen v. Lister and Biggs" (Crown Cases Reserved), the law would justify a prosecution. It appeared to him that some law might be enacted, prohibiting its being accumulated together in large quantities in casks, and