

has since been repealed, mainly from the fact that the arguments in support of its continuance were far outweighed by those against it. The small amount of Revenue derivable therefrom, as compared with the expense of enforcing it, and the difficulty in obtaining such stamps in scattered districts, where even the ordinary postage stamp is with difficulty procurable.

Not three years ago an official communication was sent to the Board by the Lieutenant-Governor requesting to know the opinion of the Board as to whether the number of German residents, and the extension and importance of the German commerce in this Province, justified the further maintenance of the German Consulate in the City of Victoria, and to which the council of the Board replied that the number of German residents in said city alone would justify the maintenance of said Consulate, irrespective of the extension and importance of the commerce as affecting British Columbia.

The subject of telegraphic communication has ever and anon been considered, and steps taken repeatedly to urge the necessity of improving it, upon the Minister of Public Works, and it is indeed gratifying to mark the success attending the importunities of the Board in this regard, as we now have a land line from Victoria to Nanaimo, a cable from Nanaimo via Valdez Island to Point Gray at Burrard Inlet, a land line built from the latter point to New Westminster and the land lines from New Westminster to the northern part of the Province, put in good working order, instead of, as heretofore, being mainly, if not entirely, dependant upon the Western Union Co. But this is not all, as we attribute, in a great measure, the prospect in the near future of a second cable, to the increasing efforts of the working committee of this institution. This cable, we are credibly informed, that some \$18,000 has been voted by the Dominion Government for a new submarine cable route between Vancouver Island and Washington Territory via Victoria and Port Angeles, or else a land route from Victoria to Cape Beale via San Juan Harbor with cable, thence to Neah Bay (Cape Flattery) in Washington Territory. We venture an opinion that the former plan would be more preferable, (and probably less expensive) and connect it with the Puget Sound land line to Cape Flattery. The commercial element will doubtless hail the advent of either with much pleasure.

A committee of the Board in 1880 drew up a very careful report upon the effect of the "Canadian Tariff" in British Columbia, but more particularly in reference to "Duties on Freight" (clause to Tariff 1879) giving a very neat table showing that the enactment referred to, was especially burdensome to British Columbia, owing to the great distance which separates it from the Eastern Provinces and United States, as also the consequent excessive freights which are charged on importations from those parts, and a resolution was passed urging the Ministers of Customs and Finance to amend the Tariff as would at once place this Province in the same position as the Eastern Provinces of the Dominion, in regard to importation from the United States. The result of this step has been the cancellation of such duty on the cost of transportation of merchandise to the port of San Francisco, destined for British Columbia by an order in Council, dated 12th May, 1881, upon the recommendation of the Minister of Customs, and endorsed by the Treasury.

## OUR IMPORTS.

We show, in the accompanying table, some of the different countries we patronize and the extent of our purchases. The totals for the different years are not small when we consider our population, but the grand time for British Columbia will be when the figures become greatly reduced through the agency of small factories established in our midst.

ABSTRACT VALUE OF GOODS ENTERED FOR CONSUMPTION FROM 1872 TO 1882, INCLUSIVE.

COUNTRIES WHENCE IMPORTED.	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882
Eastern Canada.....	\$ 22,215	\$ 33,601	\$ 60,101	\$ 115,461	\$ 120,335	\$ 163,112	\$ 111,754	\$ 181,051	\$ 248,072	\$ 357,111	\$ 406,768
Great Britain.....	592,945	730,757	733,748	801,323	1,158,612	712,087	966,157	721,002	450,697	500,129	750,043
United States.....	1,000,000	1,500,000	1,250,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,350,000	1,500,000	1,400,000	1,100,000	1,014,130	1,800,000
France.....	1,000	2,319	1,250	2,210	292	72	80	1,408,677	1,100,582	1,014,130	1,800,000
Germany.....	158	158	158	158	292	72	80	1,408,677	1,100,582	1,014,130	1,800,000
Belgium.....	158	158	158	158	292	72	80	1,408,677	1,100,582	1,014,130	1,800,000
China.....	6,161	6,161	6,161	6,161	5,141	10,063	81,315	121,070	44,000	127,822	240,170
Japan.....	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
Spanish West Indies.....	1,551	6,818	11,012	18,831	21,163	10,103	15,000	14,863	1,015	430	62
Spain.....	1,551	6,818	11,012	18,831	21,163	10,103	15,000	14,863	1,015	430	62
Chile.....	1,110	65,460	65,463	47,857	53,072	54,005	2,000	2,005	735	2,140	1,015
Australia, New South Wales, etc.....	67,178	65,460	65,463	47,857	53,072	54,005	2,000	2,005	735	2,140	1,015
Rendwich Islands.....	1,110	65,460	65,463	47,857	53,072	54,005	2,000	2,005	735	2,140	1,015
Central America.....	1,110	65,460	65,463	47,857	53,072	54,005	2,000	2,005	735	2,140	1,015
Switzerland.....	1,110	65,460	65,463	47,857	53,072	54,005	2,000	2,005	735	2,140	1,015
Navagator Islands.....	1,110	65,460	65,463	47,857	53,072	54,005	2,000	2,005	735	2,140	1,015
Spanish Possessions in Pacific.....	1,110	65,460	65,463	47,857	53,072	54,005	2,000	2,005	735	2,140	1,015
Turkey in Asia.....	1,110	65,460	65,463	47,857	53,072	54,005	2,000	2,005	735	2,140	1,015
Mexico.....	1,110	65,460	65,463	47,857	53,072	54,005	2,000	2,005	735	2,140	1,015
South America.....	1,110	65,460	65,463	47,857	53,072	54,005	2,000	2,005	735	2,140	1,015
Duty Collected, no det. return rec'd.....	1,110	65,460	65,463	47,857	53,072	54,005	2,000	2,005	735	2,140	1,015
Total.....	1,780,283	2,152,400	2,111,110	2,601,317	3,074,710	2,330,065	2,430,827	2,502,405	1,901,688	2,854,948	3,331,863

\* Year ending June 30, 1882.

In looking over the different articles imported and the quantities consumed, it does seem as though there are many openings for manufacturers in a small way, and with this end in view we shall, hereafter, every quarter, give a full return of the different articles we import and their value, together with the duty paid thereon, hoping to stimulate our capitalists to action, and, in the event of their failing to avail themselves of opportunities, to let enterprising men, wherever