

Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba this year; coupled with the low prices obtained for grain, and the falling off in the demand from the United States for Canadian barley, owing to changes in the trade. In the Lower Provinces a revival of the ship-building industry, the improvement in sea-going freight rates, with fair crops and a better lumber business, united to make the year one of comparative prosperity. In many departments of manufactures and of the import trade, business has been more profitable, if not larger in volume, than during previous years, owing to higher prices and better demand. Values of many kinds of raw material for manufacture have steadily advanced or remained firm, and prices of woollens and iron in the British market being firmer, there has not been the same disposition to cut prices, although competition has continued to be very keen.

As regards Montreal it is gratifying to note that the Custom House returns of the Export and Import trade of the port shew a marked increase under both headings, the Exports exceeding by over two million dollars any preceding year, and the Imports being considerably above the average, and in excess of all previous years but 1882. The amount of duty collected averages a lower percentage than in 1888, being nineteen and three-fourths per cent against twenty-two per cent. The number of sea-going vessels and the aggregate tonnage thereof shews a gain on the preceding season, and the freighting business has been more satisfactory to the steamship interest; while on the Canals the movement of both eastern and western bound freight has largely increased.

YEARS.	Sea-going Vessels arrived in Port.	Total Tonnage.	Value of Merchandise Exported.	Value of Merchandise Imported.	Customs Duties Collected.
1889.....	695	823,165	\$32,638,270	\$47,191,888	\$9,321,981.91
1888.....	655	782,473	24,049,638	39,866,527	8,778,291.32
1887.....	767	870,773	29,391,798	43,100,183	8,745,526.11
1886.....	703	809,699	28,078,330	40,469,942	8,362,618.94
1885.....	629	683,854	25,272,898	37,413,250	6,672,971.26
1884.....	626	649,374	27,145,427	42,366,793	6,772,675.68
1883.....	660	664,263	27,277,159	43,718,549	7,698,796.12
1882.....	648	554,692	26,334,312	49,749,461	8,395,654.07
1881.....	569	931,929	26,561,188	43,546,821	7,672,266.17
1880.....	710	628,271	30,224,904	37,102,869	5,231,783.80
1850.....	211	46,156	1,744,772	7,174,180	1,009,258.80