

Return from Collector of Customs at Victoria, B.C.

We find from a return made by the collector of Customs at Victoria under requisition from the Commission, dated 11th of August 1884: that for ten years commencing with the year ending 30th June, 1874, and terminating 30th June, 1884, there was a marked increase in the value and amount of duty on goods imported from China into the Province, and entered for consumption. Previous to 1874, no returns are given.

That increase is thus shown:—

Provincial trade with China.	Year	Value	Duty rec'd
	1874	\$ 6,064	\$ 174.47
	1875	1,277	194.60
	1876	5,481	1,094.85
	1877	20,711	8,392.48
	1878	81,345	22,940.23
	1879	121,976	30,410.78
	1880	44,936	14,186.25
	1881	127,852	39,204.48
	1882	240,170	78,433.65
	1883	326,239	104,738.66
	1884	393,728	111,300.15
		<u>\$1,369,779</u>	<u>\$411,970.60</u>

This Return embraces the imports from China entered for consumption generally, and the duties paid by importers generally. A second Return shows of these total amounts what proportions were entered and duties paid on, directly by the Chinese firms or traders themselves. Taking the fiscal years terminating in June, 1883 and 1884 as the latest illustrations:

In the fiscal year from July 1st, 1882, to June 30th, 1883, the amount of duty so paid by the Chinese firms was \$87,459, out of a total revenue of \$798,604.67, or at the rate of 11.1-5 per cent.

In the year from the 1st July, 1883, to 30th June, 1884, the amount of duty so paid was \$99,779.75, out of a total revenue of \$790,676, or at the rate of 12.54 per cent.

The monthly return for the first month of the present fiscal year, from the 1st of July, 1884, to the 1st of August, shows amount of duty so paid by the Chinese firms, \$19,319.71, out of a total of \$77,208, or at the rate of 25 per cent.

Thus we find that, during the last ten years, the Chinese trade in British Columbia has contributed to the general revenue of the Dominion the sum of \$411,970.60, or nearly half a million, and of that amount in the last two years the trade has so increased that the duties paid by the Chinese importers alone have amounted to \$187,238, or at the rate of nearly 12 per cent. of the total revenue collected from Customs in the Province, and, assuming the return given by the Collector for the month of July, 1884, as an average for the fiscal year terminating on 30th June, 1885, the total amount paid by the Chinese importers alone for the current fiscal year would be \$231,836.52, or at the rate of 25 per cent. assuming the total increase of revenue to be in relative proportion.

Later returns from the Collector for the months of August and September, 1884, give for the former \$9,267.08, for the latter 9,753.91, or for the first quarter of the current fiscal year, \$38,340.62, or at the rate of \$153,362.48 for the year.

From the same Collector we have returns of the number of passengers entering the port of Victoria during the last eight years. (It may here be stated that up to this time the great bulk of arrivals has been at that

Total arrival of passengers for eight years.