

RAW MATERIAL

Few countries offer greater facilities than Canada for obtaining the raw material necessary in the various branches of manufacture. Wood of almost every variety is found in abundance, and largely exported, the article of lumber forming the largest item of Canadian exports. Hides and wool are shipped in large quantities to the United States. Iron ore is abundant in various localities, and exported to the same country. Bones, horns, and ashes are wasted in many parts of the Province. Pig iron, cotton wool, tobacco leaf, hides, tallow, palm oil, coal, and almost every article of raw material is admitted free of duty. Cotton, wool, and unmanufactured tobacco can be laid down in Canada, cheaper and in far less time, than they can be delivered in Boston or New York. Messrs. Nutty & Woodward, cotton manufacturers, Thorold, inform me, that being five hundred miles nearer the place of growth than the Eastern States, they effect a saving of about one-half cent per pound in freight. By the Mississippi and the Lakes, there is unbroken water communication from Memphis, St. Louis, and New Orleans to any frontier town in Canada. The great bulk of our exports being raw material, it is consequently from ten to twenty per cent cheaper than in the English or American markets. To show the nature and extent of our exports of raw material, we have only to give the following statement from the Trade and Navigation Returns of 1857:—

EXPORTS FROM CANADA IN 1857.

	£.	s.	d.
Produce of the Mine	71,617	3	0
“ “ Fisheries.....	135,028	6	0
“ “ Forest.....	2,932,596	14	2
Animals and their Products.....	526,809	19	11
Agricultural Products.....	2,220,706	7	0
Manufactures.....	99,705	4	3
Other articles.....	30,280	0	4
Ships built at Quebec.....	345,861	0	0
Estimated short returns.....	389,051	5	4
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	£6,751,656	0	0

From the above it will be seen that the manufactures of Canada are yet in their infancy; and that she exchanges her raw materials for the manufactured productions of other countries. This is undoubtedly the natural order of settling a new country, but it cannot be continued with advantage. While raw material is abundant, and labour scarce, there is no other alternative, but when population increases, and that raw material might be manufactured with advantage at home, it is clearly a suicidal policy to follow the same course. It is therefore to be hoped, that the surplus capital of other countries will find its way to Canada, enabling us to manufacture at home, many articles now imported from abroad; to consume the raw material now exported, and employ that labour, which, in many parts of the Province is now unemployed.