

AUSTRALIAN TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN, THE STATES, GERMANY AND CANADA.

A report has just been issued by the German consul at Sydney, New South Wales, showing the imports into Australia from 1894 to 1899 from Germany and the United States. It is significant that the consul omits to give the imports from Great Britain, and from Canada. The manner in which the statistics are given conveys the idea that the increased imports of Australia in recent years have come from Germany and the United States, as though no such expansion had taken place in regard to the goods brought in from Great Britain, or Canada. We have supplemented the comparative table given in the German consul's report by adding the statistics of Canadian imports in some years, and, following the table, we give an exhibit of the goods sent to Australia from England, and those of that Commonwealth exported to the Mother Country.

The imports into Australia for years from 1894 to 1899 were as below:

Years.	Germany. \$	U.S. \$	Canada. \$
1894.....	1,680,714	2,639,721
1895.....	2,071,654	3,038,000	428,267
1896.....	3,361,987	8,418,417	518,233
1897.....	4,382,108	9,138,688	1,422,426
1898.....	3,755,118	12,667,422	1,649,320
1899.....	4,165,880	10,800,316	1,527,810

The percentage of increase in six years was in each case as follows:

Germany.	United States.	Canada.
147 Per. Cent.	309 Per. Cent.	260 Per. Cent.

The vigorous efforts made by German and American manufacturers to capture the Australian market was undoubtedly successful to a considerable extent, so also were the efforts of Canadians, who, as well as not, might have run ahead of German and American competitors by greater enterprise, and more careful study of the Australian market. The following is a table of a portion of the imports into Australia of English goods sent in eleven months of this year and in same period of 1899, classified under a few heads:

Articles.	1900. \$	1899. \$	Increase or Decrease. \$
Ales & Spirits...	5,560,300	4,900,800	Inc. 659,500
Cotton goods...	12,690,100	10,815,100	Inc. 1,875,000
Linen & Jute....	2,416,300	2,096,200	Inc. 320,100
Silk.....	107,750	57,740	Inc. 50,010
Wollens.....	7,248,500	6,054,200	Inc. 1,194,300
Hardware.....	1,910,160	1,719,600	Inc. 190,560
Metal goods....	2,320,900	1,730,100	Inc. 590,800
R-way goods....	2,250,150	1,540,700	Inc. 709,450
Hoops & Sheets..	5,726,000	4,462,100	Inc. 1,263,900
Iron & Steel....	7,580,110	5,390,240	Inc. 2,189,870
Tin & lead goods.	1,510,400	730,400	Inc. 780,000
Machines.....	3,339,000	2,202,320	1,136,680
Clothing.....	11,321,000	9,550,180	1,770,820
Leather goods...	1,748,690	1,501,200	247,490
Chemicals.....	1,318,100	1,131,160	186,940
Paper.....	1,796,400	1,386,500	409,900
Crockery.....	1,330,120	1,071,000	259,120
Totals.....	70,173,980	56,339,540	13,834,440

The reports of foreign consuls in Australia seem intended to convey the impression that England was being ousted out of that market by Americans and Germans.

Yet, the above table, which is compiled from the official returns of the British Board of Trade, shows that the amount of English goods sent to Australia in eleven months of this year, were about sixteen times the value of those sent by Germany in 1899, and nearly seven times the value of those from the United States. The increase in British exports to Australia this year over 1899 being \$13,834,440, exceeds the total exports sent to that Colony from the States in 1899 by \$3,034,124. There is an old saying "Swagger" is a good dog, but "Holdfast" is much better. Our German and American friends have a much heavier contract on hand than they will ever carry out in their endeavour to thrust English goods out of Imperial markets.

THE COMMONWEALTH COLONY.

The people of Australia selected "Commonwealth" as the title of their country when the different sections of it became federated. This title has a flavour of republicanism owing to its adoption by the rulers of England in Cromwell's time, and the States of the American Republic being known as a "Commonwealth." The name is, however, a good one, although some of its associations are distasteful.

The inauguration ceremonies on New Year's Day were on a scale of magnificence, probably never before seen in a British Colony. A message of congratulation and good wishes direct from the Queen aroused intense enthusiasm. One also from the Imperial Government was well received. Earl Hopton, the first Governor-General, seems already to be popular, as it is easy to be in Australia, where the general standard of comfort and prosperity is so high as to check the growth of discontent and the social irritation created by poverty. The Australians, happily, are very united as members of the Empire. The population of The Commonwealth of Australia was fast approaching three and a half millions in the last census, and this figure is probably exceeded. The aggregate revenue last year of the federated colonies exceeded one hundred and thirty-one millions of dollars. The annual production of the Commonwealth in gold, wool, wine and meats, amount in the aggregate to such an enormous amount as constitutes the colony one of the richest countries in the world. The gold output alone in 1898 was valued at \$67,000,000.

On entering upon a similar career to that which Canada commenced in 1867, we wish our Australian fellow-subjects every success, prosperity and happiness, individually and collectively, as members of the Commonwealth.