

CANADA'S FOREIGN TRADE, 1899-1100.

The foreign trade of Canada has advanced by leaps and bounds in the last ten years. Up to 1891, the fluctuations of exports from year to year, and from decade to decade, were within a narrow area. The imports took a wider range in their alternations, being affected materially by movements not, at the time, directly connected with the general trade of the country, such as importations of materials for railway construction. Though not directly connected with the general trade of Canada at the time, these imports had, ere long, a very close connection with the development of the Dominion. The record shows that the imports showed marked signs of expansion for some time before the same signs of growth were visible in exports. It is not advisable to over-strain the theory that imports add to the material resources of a country, though, it is true, within limitations. But that a succession of adverse balances of trade either impoverish a nation, or weaken its productive capacity, is disproved by the fact that, the era of great expansion in the exports of Canada was preceded by some years during which the imports went on enlarging year after year, while the exports were stagnant. The record is given in the "Tables of Trade and Navigation," just published by order of Parliament, for year 1899-1900, is, as in following table wherein are given the total imports and exports for twenty past years, with the respective increases or decreases compared with previous year:

Year.	Imports.		Exports.		Increase or Decrease in each year.	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	Imports.	Exports.
1900.	189,622,515	191,894,723	Inc.	26,858,207	Inc.	32,997,818
1899.	162,764,308	158,896,965	Inc.	22,440,255	Dec.	5,255,778
1898.	140,323,053	164,152,683	Inc.	21,104,444	Inc.	26,202,430
1897.	119,218,609	137,950,253	Inc.	1,207,101	Inc.	16,936,401
1896.	118,011,508	121,013,852	Inc.	7,229,826	Inc.	7,375,049
1895.	110,781,682	113,638,803	Dec.	12,693,258	Dec.	3,886,116
1894.	123,474,940	117,524,949	Dec.	5,599,328	Dec.	1,039,403
1893.	129,071,268	118,664,352	Inc.	1,668,200	Inc.	4,600,977
1892.	127,406,068	113,963,375	Inc.	7,438,430	Inc.	15,546,079
1891.	119,967,638	98,417,296	Dec.	1,890,603	Inc.	1,668,147
1890.	121,858,241	96,749,149	Inc.	6,633,310	Inc.	7,559,982
1889.	115,224,931	89,189,167	Inc.	4,733,301	Dec.	1,013,833
1888.	110,894,630	90,203,000	Dec.	1,997,606	Inc.	687,189
1887.	112,892,236	89,515,811	Inc.	8,467,675	Inc.	4,264,497
1886.	104,424,561	85,251,314	Dec.	3,516,925	Dec.	3,977,047
1885.	108,941,686	89,238,361	Dec.	7,455,557	Dec.	3,168,135
1884.	116,397,043	91,406,496	Dec.	15,856,979	Dec.	7,679,308
1883.	132,254,022	98,085,804	Dec.	12,834,522	Dec.	4,051,339
1882.	119,419,500	102,137,203	Inc.	14,088,660	Inc.	3,846,400
1881.	105,330,840	98,290,803	Inc.	18,841,093	Inc.	10,379,365
Inc. 1900 over						
1881.	84,291,675	93,603,920

Since 1868 the imports of Canada have risen from \$73,459,644 to \$189,622,515, and exports from \$57,567,888 to \$191,894,723; the increase of imports being \$116,162,869, or 158 per cent., and of exports, \$134,326,835, or 233 per cent.

The total imports since Confederation amount to \$3,747,864,138, and total exports, \$3,267,110,796; which, to use an ordinary term, leaves an adverse balance of trade against Canada, between 1868 and

1900 of \$480,753,342; that is, the foreign goods which have entered Canada since 1868 have been valued at \$480,753,342 greater than the value of the goods exported. How this enormous balance against this country has been settled, or if not settled, by what it is represented, is a problem we leave untouched. Another question is, how has it come to pass that Canada has been growing rapidly in wealth, while the "balance of trade" has been so enormously against her in the past 33 years of her expansion in financial strength? The following exhibits the respective amounts of the trade between Canada and Great Britain and the United States in the past ten years:

Year.	Great Britain		United States.	
	Imports from, \$	Exports to, \$	Imports from, \$	Exports to, \$
1900...	44,789,730	107,736,368	109,844,378	68,619,023
1899...	37,060,123	99,091,855	93,007,166	45,133,521
1898...	32,500,917	104,998,818	78,705,590	45,705,336
1897...	29,412,188	77,227,502	61,649,041	49,373,472
1896...	32,979,742	66,690,288	58,574,024	44,448,410
Total 5 yrs.	176,742,700	455,744,831	401,780,199	253,279,762
1895...	31,131,737	61,856,990	54,634,521	41,297,676
1894...	38,717,267	64,080,493	53,034,100	35,809,940
1893...	43,148,413	64,906,549	58,221,976	48,923,010
1892...	41,348,435	49,280,558	53,137,572	38,988,027
1891...	42,047,526	48,353,694	53,685,657	41,138,695
Total 10 yrs.	373,136,078	744,223,415	674,494,025	459,437,110
Total trade in 10 years....		Great Britain, \$1,117,359,493		United States, \$1,133,931,135
Excess of United States....			16,571,642

The difference between the total trade done by Canada with Great Britain and with the United States in the last ten years is, comparatively small, being only \$16,571,642. But, when the respective totals of imports from and exports to Great Britain are compared with the totals of imports from and exports to the United States, the contrast is very striking and very significant. Great Britain in the last ten years bought Canadian goods whose total value was \$371,087,337 in excess of the value of the British goods bought by Canada in that period. On the contrary, the United States bought Canadian goods whose total value was \$215,056,915 below the value of the American goods imported by Canada from the United States in the same period of ten years. Great Britain, since 1891, has increased her purchases from Canada to extent of \$59,382,674, while we have only bought \$2,742,204 more British goods in the same term; the States have only bought \$27,480,328 more from Canada, during which period Canada increased her purchases of American goods by \$56,158,721. If, in trade, one good turn deserves another, that is, if the principle of reciprocity ought to be recognized, Canada has been acting on the opposite principle; she has met the liberality of Great Britain with restricted purchases, and has met the churlish policy of the States with more larger and more liberal dealings. The Trade and Navigation returns have other aspects and materials for presentation and use when opportunity opens.