BRITISH FOREIGN TRADE, 1900.

OFFICIAL RETURNS FOR PAST HALF YEAR.

We have before us the Trade and Navigation Returns published by the British Government for the half year ended 30th June last. The expedition with which these elaborate tables are published is quite remarkable. They were in the hands of the public in the old land about the 7th July, only one week after the date to which they were made up. The foreign trade of Great Britain is the pivot upon which turns the vast financial operations that more or less affect those of every country in the world. The Assistant Secretary of the American Treasury has recently declared that the United States is becoming the chief factor in the world's finance, but a consideration of the fact shown by the following tables, that England in one half year imported foreign goods to value of $1,277,725,400 in exchange for exports valued at $882,299,400, leaving $395,426,000 as receipts for interest on loans and for services rendered to foreign countries, shows that England is still the great creditor nation of the world and the great carrier of the world's commerce. The following gives in a condensed form a summary of the British official trade and navigation returns for past half year, the totals under each classification being given and the amount in each case wherein it is less or more than in same period last year.

ARTICLES.	Imports, 1900.	Increase or decrease.	Exports, 1900.	Increase or decrease.
	$	$	$	$
Animals, living	23,080,000	d 1,502,000	1,965,800	d 296,600
Food and drink, free	422,338,500	i 15,395,000	....	....
do dutiable	57,460,000	i 593,800	....	....
Food and drink, total	479,798,500	i 15,988,800	28,545,000	i 2,397,700
Tobacco	10,135,500	d 756,000	....	....
Metals, and metal goods	78,740,000	i 9,655,000	120,100,000	i 29,688,000
Chemicals	15,888,500	d 812,600	25,375,000	i 1,980,000
Oils	26,829,800	i 3,955,000	....	....
Textile raw materials	212,654,500	i 23,226,000	....	....
Other raw materials	142,050,000	i 26,185,000	95,900,000	i 33,495,000
Manufactures	243,415,000	i 14,065,000	....	....
Machinery	....	....	49,227,700	i 1,504,000
Ships	....	....	19,690,000	d 6,360,000
Apparel	....	....	23,620,500	i 834,000
Textile goods	....	....	254,475,000	i 20,270,500
Miscellaneous	42,075,000	i 5,655,000	91,000,000	i 4,440,000
Parcel post	3,058,600	d 76,500	6,800,400	i 842,800
Total values	1,277,725,400	i 94,582,700	716,699,400	i 88,795,400
Exports of Foreign and Colonial goods	....	....	165,600,000	d 431,200
Grand Totals	1,277,725,400	i 94,582,700	882,299,400	i 88,364,200

The net increase in the imports of last half year as compared with same period 1899 was $94,582,700, and net increase of exports, $88,364,200, making the total increase in the foreign trade of Great Britain last half year, $182,946,900 in excess of the same term a year ago. The increase of imports was close upon 8 per cent., while of exports the increases was over 11 per cent. The larger increases in exports were in woollen fabrics, carpets, linen goods, silk, iron and steel, paper. In imports the chief increase were in meats, cheese, copper, tin, wood pulp and the raw material of the textile trades. Of the previous metals the imports and exports of silver nearly balanced each other, but of gold the imports were $63,500,000, and exports, $38,000,000, leaving a balance of $25,-500,000. The famine in India has heavily reduced the shipments to that market, and the war is responsible for a considerable disturbance of trade, but, taking the whole returns from Jan. 1st to July 1st, they afford a very satisfactory exhibit of the foreign trade of Great Britain, and of the capacity of the old land to stand the strain upon its resources which has been going on for some time, and which threatens to continue much longer than was hoped would be the case.

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Owing to the increasing business of the above company, the staff of special agents has been reorganized. Mr. J. Gilles Keator, formerly inspector for the Lower Provinces, is now doing duty at the head office for Canada, in Montreal, and has already been on a tour of inspection in Ontario.

THE UNUSUAL.—"Close the doors of the air-tight bulkheads!' shouted the captain, for the ship was sinking. A moment later a sailor, ashen pale, with starting eyes and chattering teeth, came staggering up the companionway. "The doors!" he shrieked, in abject terror. "They are actually all right! They close readily." "Merciful heaven!" gasped the captain, and lost his head.—*Detroit Journal.*

CANADIAN MONEY AND UNITED STATES BANKS.—The Commissioner of Internal Revenue at Washington has held that whenever Canadian bank notes or any notes, foreign or domestic, other than national banknotes, are used for circulation in the United States, any banks receiving such notes, and paying them out again in the United States are required to pay the tax of 10 per cent. under section 20 of the Act of February 8, 1875.