

Altogether the general outlook is most encouraging, there being a degree of confidence in the business community that has not been experienced for several years, and it may be said that the bright prospects for the coming twelve months can hardly be too highly estimated.

Passing from the country in general to the port of Montreal in particular, it is gratifying to find that the following figures obtained from the Harbour Commissioners and the Collector of Customs shew a like marked improvement, the arrivals of sea-going vessels having increased by 162,534 tons, the exports by \$5,996,592, and the imports by \$1,435,926.

YEARS.	Sea-going Vessels arrived in Port.	Total Tonnage.	Value of Mer- chandise Exported.	Value of Mer- chandise Imported.	Customs Duties Collected.
1897.....	796	1,379,002	\$55,156,956	\$47,036,196	\$ 6,992,360
1896.....	709	1,216,468	49,160,364	45,900,270	6,619,400
1895.....	640	1,069,386	40,348,197	41,996,686	6,463,103
1894.....	734	1,096,909	40,401,392	42,514,582	6,087,625
1893.....	804	1,151,777	47,700,433	53,796,227	7,038,403
1892.....	735	1,036,707	45,638,275	47,670,361	6,812,083
1891.....	725	938,657	39,344,782	48,418,569	7,297,228
1890.....	746	930,332	32,027,176	45,159,124	9,201,426
1889.....	695	823,165	32,638,270	47,415,620	9,321,981
1888.....	655	782,473	24,049,638	39,856,283	8,778,341
1887.....	767	870,773	29,391,858	43,391,715	8,745,526
1886.....	703	859,699	27,925,916	42,086,266	8,362,618
1885.....	629	683,854	25,209,813	37,042,660	6,682,529
1884.....	626	649,374	27,458,775	41,859,299	6,787,721
1883.....	660	664,263	27,122,891	44,073,915	7,730,637
1882.....	648	554,692	26,503,001	50,527,497	8,395,653
1881.....	569	931,929	25,997,155	41,774,660	7,672,268
1880.....	710	628,271	32,245,941	42,412,648	6,349,789

THE PRESIDENT WRITES THE PREMIER RESPECTING SUNDRY MATTERS.

By special request of the Council, the President, early in the year, addressed the following communication to the Premier respecting sundry matters which the Council was anxious should receive attention from the Dominion Government :

MONTREAL BOARD OF TRADE,

MONTREAL, February 8, 1897.

Honourable Wilfrid Laurier, Premier, Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour by desire of my Council to submit for your consideration the following matters which the Council is anxious should receive early and earnest attention from the Government :