

THE EXPORTER'S FIELD

CANADA'S FOREIGN TRADE.

Canada has taken her place in the realm of leading world-trading countries. For the twelve months ended June last her foreign trade in merchandise reached the tidy sum of over two hundred million dollars above the two billion dollar mark. It is only a few years, less than five years ago, that Canadians had reason to swell their chests when our foreign trade surmounted the one billion dollar figure. There is reason for gratification in the preliminary figures just issued by the Department of Trade and Commerce showing the trade of Canada for June and comparative periods. Exports of merchandise during the twelve months ended June last were over one and a quarter billion dollars compared with imports slightly less than one billion dollars. This represents a favorable trade balance of over three hundred million dollars. The figures showing the aggregate trade of the Dominion, exclusive of im-

ports and exports of coin and bullion, for the three war years reflect the development during this abnormal period. The aggregate trade in merchandise during the twelve months ended June 30th, 1915, 1916 and 1917 was, as follows:

1915	\$ 927,393,685
1916	1,565,436,495
1917	2,219,603,441

This was made up, as follows:

	Imports.	Exports.	Difference.
1915	\$425,713,113	\$ 501,680,572	\$ 75,967,459
1916	595,921,654	969,514,841	373,593,187
1917	951,004,978	1,268,598,468	317,593,485

The following preliminary statement of the trade of Canada for the month of June and twelve months ending June, 1915, 1916 and 1917, presents interesting comparisons. The imports and exports of coin and bullion should not be taken as any indication of the trade of Canada.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF THE TRADE OF CANADA FOR JUNE.

Prepared by Trade Statistics Branch, Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa.

Month, and Twelve Months ending June, 1915, 1916, and 1917.

	1915.	1916.	1917.	1915.	1916.	1917.
	Month of June.	Month of June.	Month of June.	Twelve Months ending June.	Twelve Months ending June.	Twelve Months ending June.
	1915.	1916.	1917.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Imports for Consumption.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Dutiable goods	20,638,409	36,765,226	51,761,825	256,736,257	337,761,864	509,201,674
Free goods	14,686,330	29,634,612	45,753,242	168,976,856	258,159,790	441,803,304
Total imports (mdse.)	35,324,739	66,399,838	97,515,067	425,713,113	595,921,654	951,004,978
*Coin and bullion	459,537	388,438	776,554	132,602,879	34,058,009	28,997,629
Total imports	35,784,276	66,788,276	98,291,621	558,315,992	629,979,663	980,002,607
Duty collected	7,409,238	12,105,268	15,329,381	78,345,187	118,266,846	158,918,514
Exports.						
Canadian Produce—						
The mine	4,649,014	7,755,875	4,961,037	53,526,602	71,834,835	83,044,861
The fisheries	1,122,570	1,267,883	1,185,376	19,624,268	23,248,778	24,252,339
The forest	4,904,152	5,846,672	5,451,576	43,288,935	53,259,354	56,518,595
Animal produce	7,808,946	8,473,780	7,331,668	79,107,718	108,147,106	132,145,130
Agricultural products	14,269,748	38,744,527	57,869,423	141,611,903	323,510,530	407,035,054
Manufactures	9,757,146	32,252,447	39,021,170	108,817,957	284,495,047	528,670,115
Miscellaneous	294,270	1,294,678	465,591	1,260,768	8,917,802	4,817,165
Total Canadian produce	42,805,846	95,635,862	116,285,841	447,238,151	873,413,452	1,236,483,259
Foreign produce	4,552,656	54,347,307	3,725,324	54,442,421	96,101,389	32,115,204
Total exports (mdse.)	47,358,502	149,983,169	120,011,165	501,680,572	969,514,841	1,268,598,463
Coin and bullion	44,259,738	27,182,099	207,274	77,715,149	80,287,037	107,376,543
Total exports	91,618,240	177,165,268	120,218,439	579,395,721	1,049,801,878	1,375,975,006
Aggregate Trade.						
Merchandise	82,683,241	216,383,007	217,526,232	927,393,685	1,565,436,495	2,219,603,441
Coin and bullion	44,719,275	27,570,537	983,828	210,318,028	114,345,046	136,374,172
Total trade	127,402,516	243,953,544	218,510,060	1,137,711,713	1,679,781,541	2,355,977,613

*NOTE.—It will be noted that the figures relating to the imports of coin and bullion for the twelve months ending June, were: imports, 1915, \$132,602,879; 1916, \$34,058,009; 1917, \$28,997,629; and exports, 1915, \$77,715,149; 1916, \$80,287,037; 1917, \$107,376,543. Although it has been customary to include these figures in trade returns, the total trade figures are seriously disturbed by them in this instance, and they should not be taken as an indication of the trade in Canada.

FOOD PRICES IN MANY COUNTRIES.

LONDON, July 21.

The general level of retail prices of the principal articles of food in the United Kingdom rose about 1 per cent. during June, states an article on the course of retail prices which appeared in to-day's "Labour Gazette."

No particulars of recent date regarding the movement of retail prices in Berlin and Vienna can be published this month, as official figures have not been received.

Other statistics show that in Switzerland on June 1 the general level of retail prices was 78.8 per cent. above that of June 1, 1914.

The cost of food in Canada in May measured by the weekly expenditure of a family as computed from returns of retail prices in sixty towns in the Dominion showed an increase of 9.9 per cent., as compared with the previous month, and of 59.3 per cent. as compared with July, 1914.

The general index number of retail prices of articles of food in March, based on returns relating to 25 representative towns in New Zealand, showed no change as compared with the preceding month. Two of the groups of commodities represented in the returns—namely, meat and groceries—showed a decrease of 0.6 and 1.0, respectively, while dairy produce increased by 2.8 per cent. As compared with July, 1914, all three groups of articles were dearer, and the combined index number for March was about 26 per cent. higher than immediately before the outbreak of war.

During February the third index number, representing the average retail price of Australia showed an increase of 0.6 per cent., as compared with the preceding month, and was 25.6 per cent. above that for July, 1914.

The price of British beef increased about 5 per cent., $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 1d. per pound, on the average, and those of other meat 3 to 4 per cent., or about $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

U. S. EMBARGO ON METALS.

The U. S. Department of Commerce served notice on Canada on Thursday that the embargo on metals needed for shipbuilding would become effective absolutely on August 15, as announced by the President on August 2, and that special licenses must be obtained for all iron and steel products for other purposes which leave that country after that date.

It was made known in the statement that even steel, iron and steel products for manufacture of ammunition would not be permitted to cross the border except under a license which showed that they were to be devoted to the prosecution of the war.

The ruling read:

"The attention of shippers to Canada is called to the President's instructions given to the press on August 2, concerning shipments of iron and steel products covered by the proclamation of July 9, which instructions supersede all previous regulations. Up to the present, shipments of these iron and steel commodities into Canada have been facilitated through the granting of special licenses issued through the collectors of the ports. From this time on special licenses will be required on all shipments of iron and steel products in accordance with the Presidential instructions of August 2. Shippers will, therefore, save themselves annoyance and delay if they will apply for licenses before making shipments to Canada, as otherwise such shipments will be held up at the border."

per pound. Bacon and fish showed some decline in price, as compared with a month ago. The price of bread, flour and milk remained practically unchanged. With tea there was no appreciable change in the average price, advances in some cases being counterbalanced by reduction to the controlled tea prices in others.

The averaged price of granulated sugar, which advanced about $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. last month, rose a further 3 per cent. this month, but the total advance since May 1 amounts to less than $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per pound. The upward movement, in the price of margarine continued. Butter was a little cheaper at the end of June than at the beginning, but eggs were 5 per cent. dearer.

The introduction of Government cheese resulted in a marked drop in the average price of that commodity by 7 per cent., or over $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. per pound. Old potatoes, where available, were sold at the same prices as a month ago, and new crop potatoes were on sale at an average of rather more than 4d. per pound on June 30. There has, of course, been a heavy fall in the price of new potatoes since that date.

Prices on June 30, 1917, as compared with those on July 1, 1916, showed an average increase of about 28 per cent. The average price of margarine was higher than a year ago by nearly 50 per cent., and that of bread and flour by 40 per cent. Cheese and eggs were dearer by about 25 per cent., beef, mutton, bacon, fish and butter by 25 to 30 per cent., and tea potatoes and milk by 15 to 20 per cent. The smallest advance over the year was in the price of granulated sugar, viz., 12 per cent.

A comparison with pre-war conditions shows that the prices of butchers' meat on July 30, 1917, ranged from about double to treble those of July, 1914, the average increases varying according to cut from $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $10\frac{1}{4}$ d. per pound. Bacon was about 76 per cent. or $8\frac{1}{4}$ d. per pound dearer. The average price of bread, viz., $11\frac{1}{4}$ d. per four pounds, was double in July, 1914, and flour showed a proportionately greater advance, amounting to 109 per cent., or $11\frac{3}{4}$ d. per seven pounds.

It is pointed out that in arriving at the general percentage increase, the several articles are weighted in accordance with the proportionate expenditure on them in pre-war family budgets, no allowance being made for the economies resulting from the changes in dietary which have been effected since the beginning of the war. With reference to other items of expenditure there have been substantial increases except with regard to rents, but the average advance has not been so great as with food. The increase from July, 1914, to June 30, 1917, in the cost of all the items ordinarily entering into working class family expenditure, including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc., may be estimated at about 75 per cent., taking the same quantities and descriptions of the various items at each date and eliminating advances arising from increased taxation.