

**Inter-Imperial  
Trade during 1909.**

Without assigning any direct causal relation in the matter, it is nevertheless to be noted that Great Britain's trade during the first half of 1909 made some of its best comparative showings in dealings with preference-giving parts of the Empire.

While total imports of the United Kingdom for the first half of 1909 showed a shrinkage of about two millions sterling from the corresponding six months of 1908, there was an advance in imports from the overseas dominions of fully 5½ millions. This improvement was achieved without any rally in imports from British India, which has scarcely yet recovered from the disastrous drought of two years ago. As the following table from The Standard of Empire shows, the most striking gains have occurred in the case of imports from Australia and New Zealand, which together had an expansion of over 4 millions, while a much better state of affairs in South Africa is shown in an advance of about a million in the value of exports to the home country from the Cape of Good Hope and a moderate increase in the exports from Natal.

Imports of United Kingdom for first half-year.	1907.	1908.	1909.	Inc. or dec. in first half of 1909 as compared with 1908.
	£	£	£	£
West Africa.....	1,667,934	1,387,669	1,538,572	+ 150,903
South Africa—				
Cape of Good Hope	3,725,746	2,941,163	3,945,352	+ 1,004,185
Natal.....	719,422	740,869	936,372	+ 195,503
East Africa.....	189,353	172,076	223,540	+ 51,464
Mauritius & D'p'd'eic.	186,643	192,509	145,440	- 47,069
Aden & Dependencies	177,094	71,242	92,689	+ 20,807
British India.....	20,281,444	13,478,149	13,088,442	- 389,707
Straits Settlements...	4,690,634	3,690,978	3,803,242	- 87,736
Ceylon & D'p'd'encies	2,752,305	2,601,814	2,745,036	+ 143,222
Hong Kong.....	300,264	249,490	233,898	- 15,592
Australia.....	20,083,112	16,712,738	18,589,417	+ 1,876,679
New Zealand.....	12,859,043	9,837,596	12,155,600	+ 2,318,010
Canada.....	8,088,197	8,216,146	8,397,914	+ 181,768
Newfoundland.....	78,775	56,395	60,680	+ 4,285
British West Indies..	1,295,106	1,484,013	1,326,307	- 157,706
British Guiana.....	321,985	194,859	370,890	+ 176,037
Falkland Islands....	127,037	109,849	132,170	+ 22,321

Of course, increased prices contributed considerably to swell the 1909 figures as shown above, though in practically all instances there were actual increases in quantity.

**Improvement  
Belated in Case  
of India.**

In passing from its compilation of British imports to its summary of exports, The Standard admits that a first glance at the figures of the export trade of the home country would seem to detract somewhat from the assertion of an expansion of trade between the various parts of the Empire during the first half of 1909. The total exports for the six months were down 13 millions, and of this total 6 millions was due to smaller exports to the oversea

dominions—a somewhat heavy proportionate shrinkage when it is remembered that the total value of exports to British possessions was only 57¼ millions, as compared with 110 millions to foreign countries. A closer inspection of the figures, however, completely dispels any idea of the half-year's trade depression having been especially marked in the case of British dominions oversea. The whole shrinkage, indeed, is explained by the fact that British India has naturally not yet recovered from the after-effects of the drought, the decline in exports to that quarter alone being 5¾ millions. If, therefore, this altogether exceptional unfavourable circumstance be eliminated, it is found that, as against a decline of seven millions in exports to foreign countries, there has been practically no setback in trade with Greater Britain.

**Trade within and  
without the  
Empire.**

British exports to the chief foreign countries in the first half of the last three years have been as follows:—

Exports to—	—Half-Year Ended June 30th.—		
	1907.	1908.	1909.
	£	£	£
United States.....	16,247,578	9,706,752	13,444,050
Germany.....	18,565,326	16,177,244	14,444,993
France.....	11,544,630	11,661,472	10,764,235
Belgium.....	6,340,293	6,011,826	5,431,192
Netherlands.....	7,080,476	6,532,922	5,652,673
Russia.....	4,857,797	5,041,500	4,395,349
Italy.....	7,215,374	8,025,967	6,394,767
Japan.....	6,116,058	5,754,525	3,952,520
China.....	6,690,319	5,258,390	4,501,459
Argentine.....	9,272,541	7,858,635	8,979,457
Brazil.....	4,503,617	4,267,654	3,719,673

Similar figures for the chief British possessions are given in the following table:—

Exports to—	—Half-Year ended June 30th.—		
	1907.	1908.	1909.
	£	£	£
Canada.....	8,265,165	5,893,174	6,903,536
Australia.....	11,441,978	11,442,421	11,116,114
New Zealand.....	3,864,198	4,360,879	3,261,587
South Africa.....	7,225,748	6,348,720	6,510,481
India.....	23,723,297	25,809,254	20,031,253

Among the favourable points which The Standard enumerates in the matter of the exports from the home country to other parts of the Empire, it is satisfactory to note that affairs in the Transvaal continue to show indications of reviving prosperity, a substantial increase having taken place in the value of goods sent to that part of the Empire. In the case of Australia, the figures are remarkably stationary, having remained at a little over eleven millions for the past three years. Nor, indeed, is there much greater variance in the matter of British trade with New Zealand. In the case of Canada, however, as with the United States, "there are unmistakable manifestations of a recovery from what cannot, perhaps, so properly be described as depression as a setback from the conditions of extraordinary activity two years ago."