

THE TRADE OF SPAIN.

Peculiar interest attaches, at the present time, to the statistics and details of Spanish trade, issued this week by the chief of the section of foreign markets of the Department of Agriculture at Washington. Though, of course, not ranking among the leading powers of the earth, in the volume of foreign business done, Spain's commercial transactions amount to a good figure. The statistics, however, possess special interest, because of the fact that the United States, though doing a comparatively small business with Spain, ranks fourth in importance, being exceeded, in fact, only by France, Great Britain and Cuba, in the order named.

During 1895, the latest year for which official statistics in detail are available, the total commercial transactions of Spain aggregated \$317,185,275. It is of interest in this connection to recall that Bradstreet's of March 26 contained the figures of import and export trade of Spain, given by Consul Bartleman, of Malaga. The total trade of Spain, according to him, in 1897, was valued at \$332,262,000. So it will be seen that Spain's trade has fallen off in the past two years. The total given for 1895 by the section of foreign markets, although exceeded in 1889, 1890 and 1891, was considerably larger than the annual average for the ten years, 1886-95. The heaviest trade in any single year during that period was done in 1891, amounting to \$376,546,000, while the smallest trade was done in 1894, only \$285,191,000. The yearly average for the ten years ranged from between \$315,077,000 yearly in the five-year period ending with 1895, to \$317,956,000 annually during the preceding five years. This would appear to point rather toward contraction than expansion were it not for the fact that the 1896 and 1897 figures given in Bradstreet's seem to indicate a broadening of trade, which may be partly explainable, however, on account of the three years' military operations which Spain has been conducting in Cuba and in the Philippines. In 1895 the imports exceeded the exports by about \$6,000,000, and the annual average for the ten years shows a considerable balance in favor of imports. This balance appears to have increased, particularly toward the close of the ten-year period ending with 1895.

Spain's foreign trade is largely maritime, only about 16 per cent. being transported by land as against 84 per cent. carried in seagoing vessels. And it is of further interest to note that the proportion of Spanish commerce carried in Spanish vessels has increased since 1891, when less than one-half of the company's sea-borne trade was carried in Spanish ships. In 1895 the amount of foreign trade carried in Spanish vessels was nearly \$147,000,000, whereas that carried by ships of all nations amounted to only \$115,000,000. Spain's largest commercial connection, as above indicated, is with France. During the five years ending with 1895, 31 per cent. of the country's total trade was with its northern neighbor. The United Kingdom ranks second, with 22 per cent., and Cuba third, with slightly in excess of 10 per cent. of the total. The United States, with 6.32 per cent., is fourth in rank, the yearly value of the goods transferred averaging about \$20,000,000. On December 31, 1895, the merchant marine of Spain comprised 23,073 vessels of an aggregate of 719,572 tons. Compared with the year 1886, ten years before, there was only a slight gain in vessels, but an increase of 119,000 tons. As has been the case with other countries, vessels propelled by steam have been gradually supplanting those under sail. The total tonnage of vessels entering and clearing from Spanish ports in 1895 was 25,922,486, of which Spanish vessels furnished 13,684,668, or considerably more than one-half. The heaviest shipping business appears to be conducted from the ports of the Atlantic seaboard, in spite of the comparatively restricted area bordering on that ocean. The number of ships

entering or clearing from the customs districts on the Atlantic averaged 19,704 a year for the five years ending with 1895, as against only 15,738 annually for the districts bordering on the Mediterranean.

Cadiz, on the southwestern Atlantic coast, is the principal port of the country, 15.25 per cent. of the total number of vessels clearing from that port. This proportion, however, is nearly equaled by the district of Vizcaya, on the north Atlantic seaboard, which furnished 15.16 per cent. of the total. Barcelona and Valencia, on the Mediterranean, come next in importance as shipping centers. As regards weight or tonnage of merchandise carried the United Kingdom ranks above all other countries, this being due, perhaps, to the fact that coal, a most important Spanish import, is procured chiefly from Great Britain. It is of interest to note that the neighboring kingdom of Portugal only ranks fifth in the volume of Spanish trade, doing less than 4 per cent. The trade carried on with Puerto Rico is nearly as large as that done with Belgium, or about 3 per cent., while that done with the Philippine Islands, though slightly smaller in volume, amounts to \$8,467,013, or 2.69 per cent. The total merchandise annually exchanged between Spain and her colonies, comprising Cuba, Puerto Rico, the minor possessions, exceeds \$50,000,000, of which Cuba furnishes \$32,139,000.

STICK TO YOUR OWN BUSINESS.

The disposition of some men to meddle with matters outside their own legitimate business, and sometimes in a way which makes them offensive to some members of the community, has been the undoing of many. And while true of all classes of business, especially is it so of industrial insurance, that one of the essentials to success is that a man stick to his own business. This truism was well illustrated a few days since by the experience of Julius S. Kohler, an agent for the Prudential at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. He became possessed of a meddlesome spirit, and in a public speech advocated the establishment of a local labor bureau that would exclude Catholics. He was promptly discharged by the Prudential, and in a letter to Superintendent S. R. Hankinson, in charge of the district, Vice-President Leslie D. Ward very clearly stated the attitude of the company, as follows:

"Dealing, as we do, with all classes of people, it is very important that our representatives should not be prominent in anything outside of their own business. Should their inclinations point otherwise it is their duty to resign at once. Our employees have a perfect right to belong to any church they see fit, or affiliate with any political party; but we must insist that they do not make themselves offensive to any member of the community in which they live. Should they do so their usefulness with us is ended, and we trust that you will conduct our business on the lines indicated."

BRITISH MARKETS.

Messrs. Gillespie & Co.'s Prices current, dated Liverpool, April 15th, 1898, say:

"Sugar.—Raw is steady, supplies of cane being limited. Refined shows no alteration.

"Rice is very firm, and likely to be dearer.

"Chemicals are by no means active, and changes in prices are unimportant. Cream tartar is lower since our last.

"Oils are fairly steady. Olive remains at about £32 10s. per tun for very good ordinary quality. Palm is easier at £19 5s. to £19 10s. per ton for Bonny, and £20 for Lagos. Castor also a shade cheaper.

"Freights, by direct steamers, are quoted about as below. Our figures are through by rail. By water a considerable

saving can be effected to points such as Toronto, Hamilton, etc. Groceries, Montreal, 6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d.; Toronto, 19s. to 25s.; Hamilton, 20s. to 26s. 6d. Chemicals, Montreal, 7s. 6d. to 8s. 6d.; Toronto, 20s. to 29s.; Hamilton, 21s. to 30s. 6d. Oils, Montreal, 7s. 6d. to 15s.; Toronto, 20s. to 30s.; Hamilton, 21s. to 31s. 6d. Groceries, chemicals and oils, Halifax, N.S., 12s. 6d. to 15s.; St. John, N.B., 10s. to 15s."

DUTY ON LUMBER WANTED.

A petition to the Dominion Government has been formulated by the Ontario Lumbermen's Association, asking for the imposition of export duties. It has been forwarded to Ottawa. The object is to have imposed on lumber entering Canada duties equivalent to those imposed by the United States on lumber entering that country. Under the Dingley tariff there is a duty of \$2 a thousand feet on lumber, 30 cents a thousand pieces on shingles, and 25 cents on laths. The association asks the Dominion Government to impose \$2 a thousand and on lumber, but in order to avoid inconvenience in the re-adjustment of the Canadian tariff it is asked that, instead of specific duties on shingles and laths, an ad valorem duty of 20 per cent. be imposed.

—Hon. R. R. Dobell tells a correspondent of The Montreal Gazette that the English provisional directors of the new company to provide the fast Atlantic line of steamers are Lord Tweedmouth, chairman; Wm. Johnston, of the Johnston line; Wm. Boumprey, late managing director of the Cunard line; Mr. Thompson, director of the Barry dock; Mr. Gellatly, of Hanky, Gellatly & Co., London; Admiral Markham, Sir Bache Cunard, and Sir John Brimson, late under secretary of the colonies. The trustees are Lord Strathcona and Mr. Mills, of Glyn, Mills, Curry & Co.

Commercial.

TORONTO MARKETS.

TORONTO, April 28th, 1898.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The two interesting features of the trade are the strike and the advance in rubbers. The union is evidently determined to continue the struggle even at the cost of destroying the trade. We elsewhere refer to the situation in rubbers. Fair orders in the assorting trade are coming forward, and retailers express themselves confident of a good season's business.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—For dairy tub butter 14 to 15c. per lb. is being paid. Large rolls are in good supply and the market is down about 1c. as compared with last week; dealers quote 14 to 15c. per lb. Pound prints are worth 15 to 16c. per lb. Creamery is in moderate demand, with prints quoted 18 to 20c. and tubs 17 to 18c. per lb. A fair jobbing demand exists for cheese, with local jobbers quoting 8½ to 9c. per lb. The situation for the new make is growing brighter as the season draws nearer to hand. The receipts of eggs are fairly large both in the city and at country points. Picklers are busy at work. Local quotations range about 10c. per doz.

FLOUR AND MEAL.—Grading is active and values, in sympathy with the wheat market, have advanced. Winter patents are quoted \$4.60, and straight roller \$4.50. The export trade is somewhat disorganized so far as present shipment is concerned by the war, but it is thought trade will soon accustom itself to the new channels.

GRAIN.—The wheat situation is reviewed in another column at some length. Prices have advanced 10c. per bushel during the week. Late advices, which seem reasonable, report the bull movement checked abroad by the phenomenal rise in values. Peas are firm, the demand is good and merchants report an active movement.