

## Preliminary Statement of the Trade of Canada for August

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

ONE MONTH AND TWELVE MONTHS ENDING AUGUST, 1915, 1916, AND 1917.

Imports for Consumption.	Month of August.			Twelve months ending August.		
	1915	1916	1917	1915	1916	1917
Dutiable goods. . . . .	\$24,205,170	\$38,398,679	52,966,903	245,784,547	365,979,574	538,513,387
Free goods. . . . .	16,627,652	33,932,435	38,964,106	170,028,508	288,531,025	458,650,354
Total imports (mdse.) . .	40,832,822	72,331,114	91,931,009	415,813,055	654,510,599	997,163,781
Coin and bullion. . . . .	812,891	17,721,634	1,489,254	122,473,271	50,627,035	14,445,873
Total imports. . . . .	41,645,713	90,052,748	93,420,263	538,286,326	705,137,634	1,011,609,654
Duty collected. . . . .	8,430,565	12,096,555	15,171,161	78,859,044	125,572,778	165,163,067
Exports.						
Canadian Produce—						
The mine. . . . .	6,090,379	7,636,581	7,421,875	54,947,979	76,055,243	80,616,649
The fisheries. . . . .	1,810,572	1,816,651	2,048,215	20,599,754	23,658,358	24,203,872
The forest. . . . .	5,846,897	6,209,357	4,700,686	45,658,916	55,004,835	53,241,745
Animal produce. . . . .	9,193,103	11,779,483	19,463,416	83,072,265	109,336,044	149,496,374
Agricultural products. . .	6,895,726	35,207,729	60,146,810	132,912,629	382,431,438	432,433,432
Manufactures. . . . .	10,690,464	33,197,925	52,236,233	121,042,381	332,825,216	614,094,149
Miscellaneous. . . . .	567,013	243,302	370,351	2,370,039	8,473,424	7,095,474
Total Canadian produce. .	41,094,154	96,091,028	146,387,586	460,603,963	987,784,558	1,359,181,695
Foreign produce. . . . .	7,904,330	2,230,133	6,175,759	44,206,489	26,585,577	37,320,780
Total exports (mdse.) . .	48,988,484	98,321,161	152,563,345	504,810,452	1,014,370,134	1,396,502,475
Coin and bullion. . . . .	4,754,398	32,344,620	973,800	94,838,702	225,544,713	7,945,000
Total exports. . . . .	53,752,882	130,665,781	153,537,145	599,649,154	1,239,914,847	1,404,447,475
Aggregate Trade.						
Merchandise. . . . .	89,831,306	170,652,175	244,494,354	920,623,507	1,668,880,733	2,393,666,256
Coin and bullion. . . . .	5,567,289	50,066,254	2,463,054	217,311,973	276,171,748	22,390,873
Total trade. . . . .	\$95,398,595	\$220,718,529	\$246,957,408	\$1,137,935,480	\$1,945,052,481	\$2,416,057,129

NOTE—It will be noted that the figures relating to the imports and exports of coin and bullion for the twelve months ending August, were: imports, 1915, \$122,473,271; 1916, \$50,627,035; 1917, \$14,445,873; and exports, 1915, \$94,838,702; 1916, \$225,544,713; 1917, \$7,945,000. 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 of Canada.

## ORIENT OFFERS PRACTICALLY UNLIMITED FIELD FOR TRADE.

Europe Will Always Be a Good Market But Europe Undoubtedly Will Soon Be Able to Supply a Large Proportion of Her Own Requirements.

Commercial possibilities in the Orient are the subject of a statement issued by the foreign trade department of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, which says:

To Balboa must be given credit for discovering the Pacific, but from all investigation it would appear that so far as the United States is concerned another Balboa is necessary, not to discover the Pacific Ocean, but to show Americans the apparently undreamed of opportunities they are overlooking in the Far East and how other nations are not so blind.

We have been transformed from a nation exporting our raw materials and buying practically all the manufactured articles we needed into a manufacturing nation, and one which at the present time dominates the whole world commercially. Since 1914, when the war started, thousands of manufacturing plants have been established to supply Europe with articles of war, and since we have become a party to that war our productiveness has vastly increased. The war will not last forever, and when peace finally comes, all these plants now manufacturing articles of destruction must either go out of business or transform themselves into manufacturers of articles of production, and to do this we must secure markets for such articles to keep pace with the other nations of the world—or else go back.

According to the Statistical Abstract of the United States, the imports of the following principal countries of the Orient, together with the amount of such imports from the United States for 1914, was as follows:

Country—	Total imports.	From U. S.	U. S. p. c.
China. . . . .	\$381,803,000	\$27,219,000	7.1
French Indo-China. . .	38,966,000	171,000	.4
British India. . . . .	594,521,000	15,544,000	2.6
Japan. . . . .	296,676,000	48,192,000	16.2
Formosa. . . . .	26,341,000	399,000	1.5
Chosen. . . . .	\$1,489,000	3,051,000	9.7

Dutch East Indies. . .	154,444,000	3,897,000	2.5
Siam. . . . .	33,882,000	1,075,000	3.2
Philippines. . . . .	48,589,000	24,020,000	49.4
Total of above. . .	\$1,606,711,000	\$123,568,000	7.7

Eliminating the Philippines, an American possession, and we have:

Total. . . . .	\$1,558,122,000	\$99,548,000	6.4
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It is now in order to take a look at the area and population of the countries embraced above to give an idea of the purchasing power when the various countries adopt Western methods as they are now rapidly doing.

Country—	Area sq. miles.	Population.	Population per sq. mile.
China. . . . .	4,278,352	413,000,000	78.54
French Indo-China. . .	310,000	16,594,000	54.80
British India. . . . .	1,802,657	315,156,000	174.83
Japan. . . . .	147,698	55,084,000	372.95
Formosa. . . . .	13,750	3,682,000	267.78
Chosen. . . . .	84,103	16,804,000	199.80
Dutch East Indies. . .	739,545	38,000,000	51.38
Siam. . . . .	195,000	8,150,000	41.79
Philippines. . . . .	115,026	8,880,000	76.74
Total. . . . .	7,686,131	869,350,000	113.10

It will be noticed the above countries constitute 15 per cent of the land area of the world while the population constitutes over 80 per cent of the population of the world.

Great Britain, France and Germany have found it necessary to have a distributing center in the Far East and Hong Kong, Saigon, Singapore, etc., have long been used for this purpose and they have to an enormous extent contributed to the up-building of the commerce of those nations.

The United States has a better located base than any of the above—Manila—but has never taken advantage of it.

The distance from Liverpool to Hong Kong (the British distributing port of the Orient) is 9,651 miles whereas the distance from San Francisco to Manila is but 6,221 miles, a differential in favor of San Francisco of 3,430 miles, or equal to about twelve days sailing one way or twenty-four days in both directions—nearly one month. This means that a ship sailing between San Francisco and Manila could make approximately six trips a year whereas a ship sailing between Liverpool and Hong Kong could make but about four and a half trips, giving San Francisco

the advantage of one and a half round trips additional that her vessel could earn freight.

For the year of 1914 let us take the Oriental countries, eliminating Japan, Formosa and Chosen (being Japanese possessions) and the Philippines (being an American possession) and see how Japan has built up her commerce to those countries.

Country.	Total imports.	From Japan	p. c.
China. . . . .	\$381,803,000	\$81,185,462	21.3
Fr. Indo-China. . . .	38,966,000	406,772	1.0
British India. . . . .	594,521,000	13,024,168	2.2
Dutch E. Indies. . . .	154,444,000	2,739,642	1.8
Siam. . . . .	33,882,000	281,545	0.8

Total. . . . . \$1,203,616,000 \$97,637,589 8.1

During the same period and to the same countries the United States sold \$47,906,000 equal to 3.9 per cent.

During the year of 1914 Japan's total exports amounted to \$295,101,461, so that of this amount she exported 33.1 per cent to the countries named, or \$97,637,589. The United States total exports during the same period amounted to \$2,113,624,050 and of this amount the exports to the countries named represented but 2.3 per cent of the total, or \$47,906,000, so that Japan with total exports of \$1,818,522,589 less than the United States actually exported to the countries named, \$49,781,589 more than the United States. In other words, the United States with a total export more than seven times that of Japan actually exported less than half what Japan did to the Orient.

A time comes in the history of every nation when it cannot be self sufficient unto itself; it must sell its overproduction to provide funds for its people and that time has not only come to the United States, but it is becoming acute. Let us look at the markets which may be available.

Europe will always be a good market, but undoubtedly Europe will soon be in position to supply a large proportion of her own requirements, thereby diminishing the amount purchased from the United States.

Africa is practically composed of colonies of the European nations, and, aside from this and the probable preference in favor of the respective mother countries, it is a long way from America and return cargoes of African products would not offset any extended outward tonnage movement.

North America, which comprises Canada, Mexico, West Indies and Central America, offers a good field, but Canada is rapidly becoming a serious competitor in manufacturing.

South America has but a limited population, a large percentage of which are Indians, whose consumption per capita will never be high, and the native population, other than the Indians, is already consuming a large amount per capita, not capable of very material increase. In addition to this, England, Germany, France and Holland all have very large investments in South America in the shape of public improvements, railways, mines, etc., and it is but natural that preference would be demanded and given to those countries to whom money is owed. If a railway, for instance, in Argentina financed by British capital required large quantities of material it is a foregone conclusion that most of it would be supplied by British merchants.

Oceania has a comparatively small population, and, like Africa, is practically all dependent upon the various European nations who will undoubtedly take good care to see that the United States or any other outside nation does not supply too great a proportion of the purchases.

Asia alone offers a practically unlimited field for the United States. With unlimited resources simply waiting capital to develop them, not as yet controlled financially by any European nation, with a population already there, and, in most cases, capable of greatly increasing its per capita consumption, and friendly to the United States because it knows this country has no designs upon its territory or integrity, there is the opportunity for American capital and American enterprise.

To take advantage of this great opening three things are apparently necessary, capital, ships and a commercial base controlled by this country. Capital the United States has in plenty, ships it can easily provide and, in fact, is now commencing to provide, and a commercial base unexcelled is controlled by this country now—Manila.

Alaska, bought for a song, with a population of but 64,828, did a business with the United States in 1916 of \$75,970,497, while the Philippines with a population of 8,826,552 only did a business with this country of \$52,643,000—just two thirds as much as Alaska.