

Our imports from France during the year, consisted most largely of champagne and other light wines, and spirits, calfskins and kid, feathers and artificials, silks and silk goods, and various fancy articles. A list of them may be of interest: Books and pamphlets, \$37,342; Bibles and Prayer Books, \$13,998; manufactures of paper, \$14,482; cotton manufactures \$20,935, including \$3,350 hosiery; glass manufactures \$10,934; silk do, \$49,042; brass do. \$6,393; leather do. \$6,036; wood do. \$6,741; jewellery and watch cases \$14,470; fancy goods \$18,897; artificial flowers \$14,971; feathers \$50,161; silk fabrics and ribbons \$25,175; buttons \$15,338; leather, sole, belt, japanned and kid \$152,290; gloves and mitts \$37,990; olive oil \$10,547; spirits and wines (247,035 gallons) \$438,664; still wines \$34,050; champagnes and sparkling do. \$10,928; other ditto \$14,803; drugs and dyes \$8,600; fish preserved in oil \$6,261; fruits and nuts \$20,360. Besides these articles above enumerated, we have purchased from France during the year, cologne water and other perfumes, wax candles, vinegar, cigarettes, brushes, seeds, straw hats, plate glass and embroideries to make up the total of \$1,115,841.

Of our exports to France, \$387,864 out of a total of home growths of \$454,487 in 1879 of Canadian product, was from "the Field" and "the Forest." The item which then swelled our nominal exports to France to so large a sum as \$714,875 in the return, was "American wheat, \$259,398," shipped from Canadian ports. Oats is the cereal which we ship most to France: 774,247 bushels of them, valued at \$312,290, went to her last year from P.E. Island, while, the year before, the quantity was 303,218 bushels. Not so much United States wheat by half, has gone from Canadian ports this year. A few thousand dollars worth of peas and other farm produce has been sent thither from the Province of Quebec. Ontario has sent to France agricultural implements, wooden utensils, and \$7,459 worth of seed; Quebec has sent in small quantities fruit, bran, tallow, potash, and horned cattle, besides oak, white pine, elm, ash, and birch timber, to a considerable aggregate; indeed her import of wood from the Dominion is increased one-fifth on the year, \$363,579, against \$288,797. New Brunswick was the largest exporter of deals to her; \$248,577 was the value. Quebec, Nova Scotia, and P.E. Island, each sending some. The Maritime Provinces also send lobsters to *La Vieille, France*.

As far as the arrangement of the Trade Returns will permit, we make a comparison of the quantities of cotton, wool and silk wares, imported during the two fiscal years last past.

Imports of dry goods, manufactures of cotton, bleached and unbleached sheetings, drills, ducks.

1880		1879	
Yds.	Value.	Yds.	Value.
6,567,513	\$521,977	13,365,851	\$904,416
Ginghams and Plaids—			
275,475	\$28,205	230,168	\$21,501
Jeans, Denims and Drillings, Ticks, Canton Flannels—			
6,761,241	\$850,792	33,038,163	\$2,550,031
Clothing or wearing apparel—			
	\$345,296		\$319,641
All other cotton manufactures—			
	\$6,087,839		\$3,052,610
Imported Woollen manufactures may be summarised as below:			
		1880.	1879.
Blankets, lbs		\$117,731	\$167,759
Flannels		187,728	233,331
Carpets		553,362	419,780
Tweeds, cloths & Cassimeres		2,238,913	907,407
Clothing		335,666	676,300
Hosiery and underwear		246,991	
Shawls		99,303	
Other manufactures		2,620,211	4,467,644
		\$6,399,905	\$6,872,221

Of imported silk manufactures and fabrics, the following are the principal items for the year 1880:

	Value.
Dress Goods	\$695,155
Ribbons	258,771
Braids, Fringes and Galloons	69,525
Sewing silk and twist	76,772
Parasols and Umbrellas	63,365
Clothing	37,956
Hosiery	7,002
All other silk goods	858,555

Total \$2,139,642 as compared with \$1,618,558 for the year 1879.

Seventy-two per cent. of the goods under the head first mentioned was purchased in the year 1879, in the United States, but in the succeeding year the tide had turned towards Great Britain, and less than half the import was from the Americans. It was otherwise in the case of jeans, denims and ticks, of which 43 per cent. came from the States in 1879, and 55 per cent. in 1880. But the different classification of fabrics in the two Blue Books prevents any close comparison of particular imports. Indeed, something of the kind is suggested by the discrepancy between the first and last items in the first tabulated statement. In spite of the decrease in our foreign purchases of grey and bleached sheetings, our total import of cotton manufactured goods last year was of the value of \$7,834,054 as compared with \$6,848,206 in 1879.

The total value of woollen goods imported was nearly half a million less last year than in the previous twelvemonth. The decline is in clothing, flannels, blankets, as well as

in "other manufactures," which indicates that we are making progress in the economical production of such goods as those named. We do not buy heavily in woollen goods from the States, dress materials form the largest item. England supplies the bulk of our woollen imports. An increase in silk imports is generally thought to indicate improved circumstances on the part of the people: if this be any proper gauge, then we were 25 per cent. better off in 1880 than in 1879, for we bought 25 per cent. more of silk goods.

LUMBER.

A very good feeling pervades the lumber trade in Ontario at the present writing, and as was noted in our market report last week, there is an active demand in the States as well, at firm prices. The production in the States is large, but probably not above what is warranted by the activity in building and by the general industrial activity prevailing there. The eastern U.S. market, according to late Albany and Boston papers, is steady, eastern and western pine selling well, hardwoods scarce and hard to buy except at full rates.

Liverpool advices of first week of May state that during April, the wood market was depressed owing to sales being forced of some goods too largely supplied in advance of requirements. This anxiety to lower stocks before the next import season sets in, has caused prices to give way, and consequently the leading staple articles are depreciated in value. In Birch, for example, the demand has fallen away, although retail prices are very low.

"A parcel of St. John, N.B., stored in Barrow was offered at auction but withdrawn, only 13½d. per foot being offered. Pine deals, especially third quality Quebec, have been in fair request, and though several parcels have been offered by auction, in most cases they have been withdrawn, but afterward sold by private treaty at about £9 10s. to £10 per standard. Spruce deals have steadily receded in prices during the month, from £7 to £6 15s. for yarded cargoes from St. John, N.B., of last season's import."

A circular, bearing date 5th inst., gives particulars of a sale of woods, *ex* 'Prince Arthur,' from Halifax, as follows:—The spruce deals sold at from £6 7s. 6d. to £7 7s. 6d., averaging about £6 15s. per std.; deal ends sold at £5 17s. 6d.; palings, 5 feet, at 70s., 4 feet, at 45s.; birch timber sold at from 13d. to 20½d., averaging 13½d. The *Miramichi Advance* finds in these prices, and in the condition of the freight as well as the lumber market, some evidence that ill-considered and unreliable reports have gone across the Atlantic respecting our lumber supply, which these reports state is greatly in excess of last year. Furthermore, some one has written, and a Liverpool house has