

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT,  
OTTAWA, 10th January, 1899.

Hon. WILLIAM PATERSON,  
Minister of Customs.

I have the honour to hand you the annual statement of the Trade and Navigation of the Dominion of Canada for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1898.

The Reciprocal Tariff came into effect on the 23rd April, 1897, but it was not found practicable to show separately the importations thereunder in the annual statement ending 30th June, 1897.

Instructions, however, were issued for a distinct account to be kept at all customs ports showing the importations of goods entered under the General and the Reciprocal Tariffs after 1st July, 1897. This information has been compiled in the department from the port returns, and is submitted in tabular form in General Statement No. 37, part 2, of this volume,—showing by countries the total imports of each article under the two tariffs combined, and the total imports of articles entered for consumption, together with the imports of articles entered for consumption separately under each tariff, placed in juxta-position for ready reference and comparison.

It is to be particularly noted that the statements presented herewith do not fully show the extent of the importations which have received the benefits of the Reciprocal Tariff, owing to refunds of duty subsequently granted upon production of proof as to the origin of the goods. In the absence of satisfactory proof of origin at the time of importation the importer first enters the articles either for warehouse or consumption under the General Tariff, and the tables are compiled from such prime entries.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN McDUGALD,  
*Commissioner of Customs.*