

THE EBB AND FLOW OF IMPORTS INTO CANADA FROM GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES—1880-1899.

The rise of Imperial sentiment to flood-tide will make the questions relating to our trade with Great Britain very prominent in Parliament, and in all spheres of public discussion, for the time necessary to organize closer trade relations between the Mother Country and her associated colonies. We prefer the word "associates" to "dependencies" in speaking of these parts of the Empire outside the United Kingdom.

How far one country, being an extensive buyer of the goods of another country, develops a friendly intimacy between them, is open to question. Nations being mutual customers of each other has not always kept them on peaceful terms. But, the earnestness with which all classes, both here and in England, are discussing the problem of developing Inter-Imperial trade is evidence that, there is something congenial to and promotive of imperial sentiment and unity in the expansion of commerce between the various parts of the Empire. Unity of material interests tends to unity in affection. To show how in past years the country has stood as a patron of British commerce, by being a buyer of British goods, and how she has also stood as a contributor to American commerce, by purchasing American goods, we have compiled the following comparative tables. The data given are taken without any "doctoring,"—which politicians have freely indulged in of late—direct from official returns, with the percentages worked out which are required for a clearer grasp of the significance of the figures. Without entering upon a very exciting topic at present, we may be allowed to say that the free goods entering Canada are chiefly raw materials and products which Great Britain does not export, for instance, Canada imported coal free of duty last year, to extent of \$6,846,030; and cotton, \$3,416,664; while of those staples Great Britain only sent up \$7,305, and \$197,090. In studying then the ebb and flow of our imports as exhibited below, we must bear in mind, first, that the tariff has never discriminated in favour of the States against Great Britain; secondly, that the free goods have been chiefly such as were relieved of duty in order to help our manufacturers in making goods at a low price:

The total imports from Great Britain, and from the United States, which were admitted free of duty, with their respective percentages to the total imports from each country, are shown in the following table for each of the last twenty years, also for year 1878, the year preceding change of tariff, from one for revenue only to one for protecting Canadian industries:

Year.	Great Britain.		Percentage to total impts. per cent.	United States.		Percentage to total impts. per cent.
	Free Goods.	\$		Free Goods.	\$	
1899....	9,409,815		25.5	43,995,349		49.8
1898....	9,486,982		29.6	36,760,963		49.1
1897....	9,183,766		31.2	26,540,833		46.5

1896....	8,458,326	25.7	24,427,744	45.6
1895....	7,747,421	24.9	24,383,466	48.6
1894....	9,542,803	25.7	24,992,455	49.2
1893....	10,660,073	25.0	23,777,746	45.4
1892....	10,231,902	24.9	22,236,582	42.9
1891....	10,571,283	25.1	22,243,075	42.7
1890....	10,009,288	23.1	20,790,264	40.5
1889....	10,031,382	23.7	21,047,136	42.0
1888....	8,319,528	21.2	19,342,616	41.6
1887....	8,975,077	20.0	14,225,300	31.8
1886....	8,647,209	22.1	13,159,770	30.7
1885....	9,329,690	23.3	14,344,563	31.4
1884....	9,096,814	21.7	13,989,190	34.3
1883....	10,947,286	21.1	16,495,198	29.6
1882....	8,896,538	17.6	14,111,874	30.0
1881....	7,024,680	16.4	10,706,388	29.4
1880....	5,726,320	16.9	8,627,216	30.5
1878....	5,112,966	13.7	24,538,371	50.7

The above statistics show that the immediate effect of the new tariff, passed in 1879, was to increase the proportion of goods admitted free of duty from Great Britain to the total imports from 13.7 per cent. to 16.9 per cent., while the proportion of free goods to the total imports from United States was reduced from 50.7 per cent. to 30.5 per cent. Since 1880, when, practically, the present protective tariff began to show results, there has been a gradual increase in the proportion of free goods to the total imports both of those from Great Britain and those from the United States. In the case of British imports, the increase was from \$5,726,320 to \$9,409,815, which is equal to an advance of 64 per cent., and in the imports from the States, the increase was from \$8,627,216 to \$43,995,349, the percentage of increase being 410 per cent. In the same period, 1880 to 1899, the total imports from Great Britain went up from \$33,764,440 to \$36,931,323, the gross increase being \$3,166,883, which is an advance of 9.38 per cent., while the total imports from the States in this period rose from \$28,193,783 to \$88,467,173, an increase of \$60,273,390, which is an advance of 213 per cent.

In order to present these remarkable changes in the amount of imports from Great Britain and from the United States, which took place from 1880 to 1899, more graphically, we place them in tabular form, with the same comparisons exhibited for period 1897 to 1899, during which a preferential tariff has been in force favouring British goods:

	Great Britain.	United States.
Increase in Free Imports, 1880 to 1899,	\$3,683,495	\$35,368,133
Increase in Free Imports, 1897 to 1899,	226,049	17,454,516
Percentage of increase of Free Imports, 1880 to 1899,	64 per cent.	410 per cent.
Percentage of increase of Free Imports, 1897 to 1899,	2.46 per cent.	65.7 per cent.
Increase in Total Imports, 1880 to 1899,	3,166,883	60,273,390
Increase in Total Imports, 1897 to 1899,	7,530,135	31,443,831
Percentage of increase in Imports, 1880 to 1899,	9.38 per cent.	213 per cent.
Percentage of increase in Imports, 1897 to 1899	25.60 per cent.	55.10 per cent.

The year 1880 was a time when imports were light as compared with some previous years; but, as this was equally the case with those from the States as those from England, the comparison shown above is not unfair to either. As considerable attention has been drawn to the respective amounts of duty paid on British and American imports, we have compiled