

square miles. The Rocky Mountains and the Selkirks are majestic in height, and so great in extent as to require two days in a fast train to cross them. The four great Canadian lakes are the largest bodies of fresh water on the face of the globe and cover an area of 67,000 square miles. The Canadian Pacific Railway is the most important of trans-continental lines and the greatest enterprise of the kind in the world. The canal system of Canada is great in its cost, in its vital import to the trade of the Continent, and in its connection with vast areas of fresh water and the mighty river St. Lawrence. Finally, the productiveness of its wheat fields, its mines, and its fisheries entitle the Dominion to fairly claim that everything about it, whether naturally or partly artificial, is upon a great and commanding scale.

A journey across the Dominion of Canada is in itself a revelation. From the sounding shores of the Atlantic the traveller passes over three thousand miles of British-Canadian territory to the rock-bound coasts of the Pacific. The fisheries of the Atlantic, the fisheries of the great lakes, the fisheries of the Pacific, are chiefly Canadian. The coal mines of Nova Scotia, of the North-West, and of British Columbia, are all Canadian. The wheat fields of Ontario and of the vast prairies of Manitoba constitute the future granary of Great Britain. The slow-going, but prosperous agriculture of Quebec forms the staple of a strong and peaceful Canadian province. The Mackenzie Basin with its million of square miles lying in almost complete and primeval obscurity, possesses unusual riches and natural resources alone sufficient for the support of a great nation. The commerce and development of Montreal and Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, Halifax and St. John, Brandon and Calgary, indicate the steady progress of the country. Statistics confirm this statement :

	1868.	1893.
Deposits chartered banks.....	\$32,808,104	\$174,776,722
Deposits savings banks.....	4,360,392	71,178,823
Letters and post cards sent ...	18,100,000	129,080,000
Miles of railway.....	2,522	15,020
Fire insurance of Canada.....	188,359,809	821,410,072
Total imports and exports.....	131,027,532	247,638,620
Export animals and products..	6,893,167	31,736,499
Export cheese.....	617,354	13,407,470

The progress of our trade has been equally great. In value it rose from \$131,027,532 in 1868 to \$172,405,454 in 1879, and thence increased to \$247,000,000 last year. The exports, which, in a new country, are beyond all doubt the most important branch of its commerce, increased in the following measure :—

Total exports 1868-72.....	\$358,500,000
" " 1873-77.....	413,800,000
" " 1878-82.....	439,100,000
" " 1883-87.....	456,400,000
" " 1888-93.....	488,500,000

In an economic sense Canada has run the whole gamut of possible policies. A hundred years ago its trade was managed from England, and its fiscal relations controlled by the Imperial Government. During the first half of the present century it had preferential trade with the Mother Country, though an arrangement which might have been greatly beneficial was so hampered and restricted in its operations as to be an injury rather than a blessing. In 1855 the then Provinces of Canada entered into a reciprocity treaty with the United States by which the natural products of each country were exchanged free of duty; any products made free to the Republic being also admitted free from the Mother Country, excepting in one or two cases where an accidental preference was given, but immediately remedied. The treaty lasted until 1866, when it was abrogated by the United States and never since renewed, although many attempts have been made by the Dominion Government to obtain a modification of its conditions suited to the present time.

Owing to an unusual state of affairs abroad, great prosperity ensued to the Canadian farmer from the arrangement while it remained in force. The Crimean war was not yet over when it commenced; wheat was higher in price than ever before or since; and, as the Yankee would say, a "general boom" pervaded the land. Then followed the local expenditure upon the construction of the Grand Trunk Railway, and the Sepoy rebellion in India, while the year 1861 saw the inauguration of the terrible civil war which rent the Republic in twain, took millions from the field and plough, and made the Canadian farmer completely master of the situation.

Confederation followed the sudden abrogation of the treaty, and the fiscal policy of the Government was a tariff averaging $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., levied chiefly for revenue purposes. This was all right while the United States was recovering from the effects of the war, but when about 1873 the Americans began to pour cheap goods over the seventeen per cent. tariff, and practically obtained control of our markets, whilst we were debarred from theirs by duties running from thirty to forty per cent., the effects soon became evident in a depression greater than any prevalent in other countries. The result was seen in the elections of 1878 and the ensuing establishment of a distinctly protective