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66 ST. PETER STREET, MONTREAL.

The Journal of Commerce

FINANCE AND INSURANCE REVIEW.

MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER 9, 1881.

OUR IMPORTS.

It is much to be regretted that the Customs Department does not take the trouble, which would be comparatively trifling, of publishing in the *Official Gazette* a complete classified statement of the imports and duties levied thereon during the fiscal year ending 30th June last. We have been led to notice the subject from having observed a comparative statement in the *Ottawa Free Press*, which is manifestly incorrect, although

we presume that there can be no doubt that there was a considerable excess of imports in the latter year. Before noticing the introductory remarks of our *Ottawa* contemporary, we would observe that he gives the total dutiable goods in 1880 as \$47,622,293, free goods \$13,829,229, and coin and bullion \$1,852,214, the addition of which would make the total \$63,303,736, instead of \$71,130,510 as stated by him. Again, adding, the same classes for 1881, the result would be \$80,128,839 instead of \$90,468,863. The figures representing the duties in the statement are quite incomprehensible.

As regards the year ending 30th June, 1880, the trade returns give the dutiable goods, \$54,182,967, of which \$1,614,165 was imported into British Columbia. The statement in the *Free Press* gives only \$47,622,293 exclusive of British Columbia. The duties in 1880, according to the trade returns, were \$14,129,953.39, whereas they are given in the *Free Press*, first as \$12,376,587.97, and then increased without any apparent reason to \$13,968,294.43. The free goods, including coin and bullion, are, according to the *Free Press*, \$15,681,443, and according to the trade returns, \$17,599,382. In sugar the *Free Press* has got into an extraordinary muddle. It gives for 1880, sugar above 14 D. S.—value \$6,710, duty \$1,866.20. The trade returns give value \$824,887, duty \$477,563.97. Sugar equal to 9 and not above 14 is, according to the *Free Press*, value \$527,506, duty \$80,478, while the trade returns give the value \$1,847,205 and duty \$977,187.97. Again, sugar below No. 9 is, according to the *Free Press*, value \$1,940,811, duty \$405,741.69, while by the trade returns it is \$958,364, duty \$440,963. We need not criticise further, a statement which our contemporary assures us he went to some trouble to compile, owing to the value of statistics, but, with proof of the inaccuracy of the