

## Financial and Statistical.

The annual report of the Department of Railways and Canals of the Dominion, for the last fiscal year, shows that the total number of railways in operation is 78 and the number of miles completed 14,633, of which 14,009 are in actual operation. Steel rails have been laid on 13,869 miles of track. The paid up capital employed amounts to \$816,662,758, and the gross earnings to \$13,239,649. The number of passengers carried was 13,222,568 and the tons of freight transported 21,753,290. The aggregate amount expended, altogether, down to June 30, 1892, by the Government for subsidies, construction, etc., has been \$133,498,706, and the loss last year to railways operated by the Government \$612,204. On canals, the total expenditure for the year was \$1,637,819 for construction, \$239,800 for repairs, and \$349,478 for management expenses—a total of \$2,227,097. The total canal revenue was \$624,675.

The growth of the postal business of a country is an excellent indication of that country's commercial, educational and numerical growth, and also of improved means of communication. Judging by this standard, the growth of the Dominion during the three past decades has been most satisfactory. The report of the post-office department shows that the postal revenue has increased as follows: In 1871 it was \$765,059; in 1881 it was \$1,767,162; in 1891, \$3,374,887; and in 1892, \$3,542,611, having doubled since 1881. The numerical growth of the country has not been large, but the diffusion of intelligence, the increase of business enterprises, and the extended growth of lines of communication throughout the whole extent of our territory are all indicated by the above figures. We notice also that by the Canadian Pacific mail the number of letters between Canada and Japan and China increased from 61,375 in 1891 to 109,411 in 1892.

The increasing magnitude of the wool product of Australia is shown by the fact that during the six years past the increase of Australian wool imports to Europe and America has been about 52 per cent. The increase of colonial wool imported during 1892 was 682,000 bales, as compared with 1891. The import from Cape Colony and the Argentine Republic has been, as usual, considerable, but showing no increase. The product both in Europe and in the United States is said to be at about a standstill, so that Australia is really the main source of the increased supply. The total of imports of wool into Europe for 1892 was 2,998,000 bales, against 2,830,000 in 1891. It is predicted in some quarters, however, that the sheep farming industry of Australia is being overdone, and a reaction is looked for.

Some idea of the importance of the St. Mary's canal in process of construction by the Canadian government may be gathered from the immense traffic now passing through the great Soo canal on the American side of the river. How enormous the increase has been even during the ten years from 1881 to 1891 is shown by the following movements:—

	Vessels, tonnage.	Barrels of flour.	Bushels of wheat.	Other grain, bushels.
1881	2,192,757	605,453	3,436,965	367,838
1891	8,400,685	3,780,143	38,816,570	1,032,104

Besides this grain shipment, there was shipped through the canal in 1891: of lumber, 366,305,000 feet, of iron ore, 3,560,213 tons; of coal, 2,407,532 tons; of salt, 234,528 barrels; and of copper, 69,190 tons. In

1892 the further increase over 1891 of freight, tonnage, all told, was 26 per cent.

It is estimated by Mr. Valentine, of Wells, Fargo & Co., that a decrease in the production of gold, silver and lead has taken place in 1892 in the United States, as compared with 1891, while copper has increased over \$6,000,000, the total output being \$19,370,510. The decrease in the gold product was slight, being about \$800,000 for the year. The silver product for 1891 was 61,851,020 ounces and in 1892 estimated at 58,169,655 ounces—a decrease of 3,681,365 ounces though, owing to the fall in the price of silver, the decrease, measured by values, was much more. In 1891 the value of the silver output was \$60,614,114, and in 1892 only \$50,607,691. The silver mines of Mexico, on the other hand, show a large increase, the product for 1892 being 52,586,207 ounces as compared with 43,877,551 ounces in 1891; thus the aggregate product of the United States and Mexico has increased about 5,000,000 ounces.

From interesting tables in the Montreal Board of Trade report for 1892 we learn that the total receipts of grain, flour and meal in bushels were 28,508,007, as compared with 24,176,289 in 1891, and 18,215,063 in 1890. The number of packages of butter received was 221,867 in 1892, against 211,978 in 1891, and 150,013 in 1890, and the number of boxes of cheese 1,379,130 in 1892, compared with 1,372,279 in 1891, and 1,415,348 in 1890. The highest price of flour and wheat from 1861 to 1892 was in 1867, when best flour was \$9.45 per barrel and wheat \$2.00 per bushel. The next highest was in 1877 at \$8.50 and \$1.63½ respectively. During ten or eleven years flour ranged from \$6 to \$6.50, and wheat from \$1.35 to \$1.55. The lowest prices were in 1887, when flour was \$3.65 per barrel and wheat 97 cents per bushel. The preceding year shows respectively \$3.90 and 94 cents. With these two exceptions, flour and wheat were lower in 1892 than at any time since 1864, the 1892 highest price for best flour being \$4.80, and for wheat \$1.03.

### ENGLISH MACHINERY IN THE UNITED STATES.

According to official reports, there was imported into the United States during the calendar year 1892 from the Consular district of Manchester, products valued at \$12,991,998, being an increase of more than a million dollars over 1891. The value of the machinery alone imported from the above district was \$2,043,552, most of the machinery being designed for the textile industries. The statement of the Treasury Department at Washington for the calendar year 1892 shows the total value of machinery imports to have been \$3,077,071. Commenting on the above figures, the *Boston Journal of Commerce* says:—

It would thus appear that, taking the figures of these two distinct authorities, about two-thirds of the machinery imported by the United States in 1892 came from Manchester, England. Taking the United States statistics of machinery imports for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892, and it appears that their value for that period amounted to \$2,891,371. Over 53 per cent. of this value was represented in the machinery imports at Boston, the remaining 47 per cent. being scattered between New York, Philadelphia and a number of other ports. In the matter of the amount of foreign machinery used in the United States, the machine shops of Manchester, England, occupy a conspicuous position toward our domestic industries. The export of card