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THE WORLD'S COMMERCE.

Some interesting facts may be deduced from the tables of the world's trade, which the German statistician, Spallart, began to compile in 1867, which have been brought down to the present time by Prof. Dr. von Juraschek and others. These tables relate, not to the internal trade of countries, but to the commerce between one land and another. There are many reasons why such tables can be only approximately accurate, but they come near enough to the truth to warrant important generalizations.

The most obvious fact is that the world's commerce has vastly increased in the latter part of the nineteenth century. In the thirty years from 1867 to 1897 this increase was more than seventy-three per cent. The increase has not been constant, for in some years there has been a decline in trade, as is natural in times of widespread crop failure or financial distress. But, on the whole, the tendency is steadily upward, as might be expected from the combined influence of many causes, such as the extraordinary development of transportation and the consequent cheapening of freight rates, the constant growth of the world's population, the increase in wealth and the consequent enlargement of the demand for commodities, the improvement and cheapening of manufacturing processes and the comparatively long periods of peace the world has had since the Napoleonic era.

In some countries, like the United States, the exports are worth a great deal more than the imports, but this is never true of the world's commerce as a whole. The figures showing the value of the total export and import trade between all countries must, of course, approximately balance, for a dollar of exports from one place figures as a dollar of imports at another place. The statistics, hereinafter given, relate only to the special and not to the general trade of the world. The special trade is the export of home produce and manufactures, and the import of articles for home consumption. The general trade is the gross exports and imports; that is, it includes the special trade and also all commodities received by the various countries and re-exported for consumption in other countries. Commodities, however, that are merely trans-shipped in bond or otherwise, and are not entered at the custom houses of the forwarding country, appear in the special trade. All countries of commercial importance distinguish, as nearly as possible, their special from the general trade, and the compilers of the table from which the following statistics are taken, used only the statistics of the special trade of the various countries as giving the best idea of the value of the world's commerce, for in the gross exports and imports the

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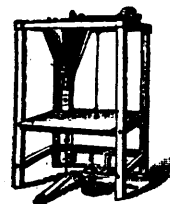
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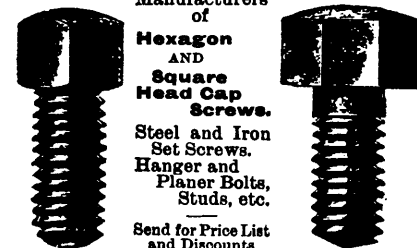
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