

ANALYSIS OF CANADA'S IMPORT TRADE

United Kingdom Had 65 Per Cent. of Dry Goods Business But Only 14 Per Cent. of Metals and Machinery—United States is a Strong Competitor

In a report to the Imperial Board of Trade of Canada for 1912, Mr. C. Hamilton Wickes, the British Trade Commissioner in the Dominion prints figures showing that imports from the United Kingdom in the year ended March 31st, 1912, showed an increase of 150 per cent. as compared with the imports in the year ended June 30th, 1900, but that great as the increase was the total imports into the Dominion from all countries have expanded in an even greater ratio.

It has been the practice of the Statistical Department of the Dominion, he says, to deal separately in their official publications with goods entering Canada free of duty and goods which are dutiable, so that it is possible to compare the relative importance of United Kingdom trade with Canada in free and dutiable goods. Of the imports from the United Kingdom 20 per cent. were free goods and 80 per cent. dutiable, whereas of the total imports from all countries 33.1 per cent. were free and 66.2-3 per cent. dutiable. Inasmuch as the preferential tariff in favor of goods imported from the United Kingdom affects the vast bulk of dutiable goods and these again form two-thirds of the total imports into the Dominion, it may be realized what a great opportunity the preference affords to United Kingdom manufacturers and merchants for developing trade between the two countries.

Sixty-Five Per Cent. of Dry Goods.

Dry goods (under which heading are included articles of apparel and attire, piece goods, articles for household use, minor articles of apparel, sewing threads and yarns, and noils) accounted for nearly 50 per cent. of the total imports into Canada from the United Kingdom; the share of the United Kingdom in the total imports of dry goods into Canada from all countries exceeds 65 per cent. But so far as total imports into Canada are concerned, manufacturers of metals, machines and machinery come easily first in importance with a value for the fiscal year 1911-1912 amounting to \$140,000,000; the dry goods trade is a poor second with a value of \$79,000,000 from all countries. While the percentage share of the United Kingdom in the dry goods trade exceeds 65 per cent., for machinery and metals, it is only some 14 per cent. The proportion of British trade in respect of imports of machines, machinery and metal manufactures admitted "free" was 23.8 per cent., or double the British proportion of the total trade in these lines entered as "dutiable" (11.8 per cent.). To this fact can be traced (in great part) the falling off (3 per cent.) in proportion of imports from the United Kingdom to the total of dutiable imports into Canada, comparing 1912 with 1900. How great is the effect of the dutiable metal figures on the total United Kingdom trade with Canada is demonstrated directly we deduct from the total imports of dutiable goods into Canada, the figures relating to dutiable metal manufactures, machines and machinery. The United Kingdom's proportion of dutiable imports in 1911-1912 at once jumps to 32.8 per cent. If we now turn to the dry goods trade (nearly the whole of the items composing it being dutiable) to see what the effect would be of eliminating the dry goods figures from the total dutiable imports from all countries into the Dominion, we find the British percent-

age shrinks to 14 per cent. No other class of United Kingdom trade with the Dominion has such far-reaching effect as the two above mentioned.

The imports into Canada from the United States in the year ended March 31, 1912, amounted to about \$330,400,000, or 63.4 per cent. of the total imports into the Dominion. In order to determine as closely as possible the class of trade in which the United States is particularly successful on the Canadian market, lists have been prepared showing in detail the items contained in the official trade and navigation returns, in which the United States share of the imports is shown to exceed 75 per cent. of the total, and it has been ascertained by means of these lists that the total of such items represents imports to the value of \$274,750,000 or nearly 53 per cent. of the total imports of all goods from all countries.

The first appended table summarizes the total values of these items divided according to imports in which the United Kingdom can compete and imports which from the point of view of United Kingdom trade are practically non-competitive, the latter include such articles as Indian corn, wheat, coal, fruits, raw cotton, certain manufactures of wood and vehicles such as farm wagons, drays, etc.

The second statement below sub-divides the above into imports under items in which the United States share of the trade is between 97 per cent. and 100 per cent., 89 per cent. and 96 per cent., and 75 per cent. and 88 per cent. of the total respectively.

The imports from the United States under these items, viz., \$258,623,031, represent 80 per cent. of the total imports into Canada from that country; also, that of this 80 per cent., 46.5 per cent. may be taken to be non-competitive so far as the United Kingdom is concerned. The balance is dealt with as competitive, yet the United States percentage amounts to 90.9 per cent., the United Kingdom securing only 6.4 per cent., and all other countries under 3 per cent. Copies of the complete lists may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73 Basinghall Street, London, E.C. By consulting these lists the items which go to make up the total may be scrutinized, the tariff preference (where a duty is imposed) may be observed, and the shares of the United Kingdom and the United States in each item may be compared.

The following statement shows the imports from the United States and the United Kingdom under the remaining headings, in which the United States does not secure as much as 75 per cent. of the total trade; these items represent 47 per cent. of the total imports into the Dominion:—

Country of shipment.	Imports. Dollars.	Proportion of imports to total imports.
		Per cent.
United Kingdom	101,425,921	43.1
United States	66,460,917	28.2
Other Countries	67,170,639	28.7
Total	235,057,477	—

It will be noted with satisfaction, but not with surprise, says Mr. Wickes, that the United Kingdom occupies the premier place, securing 43 per cent. of the trade compared with the United States' 28 per cent., the percentage of all other countries amounting to 28.7 per cent. An inspection of the items which go to make up this last table will show that the major portion of the United Kingdom trade is in respect of the following articles: Dry goods, groceries (such items as whiskey, tea, biscuits, pickles, sugar, sugar candy, provisions, etc.), netting, fishing lines, cordage and twine, raw wool, diamonds, explosives, oil paintings, bristles, etc.

	Total Imports into Canada.		Imports from United States of America.		Imports from United Kingdom.	
	Non-competitive.	Competitive.	Non-competitive.	Competitive.	Non-competitive.	Competitive.
	Dollars.		Dollars.		Dollars.	
Competitive goods	152,107,918		138,263,530	90.9	9,878,041	6.4
Non-Competitive Goods	122,646,162		120,359,501	98.1	1,002,380	.8
Total	274,754,080		258,623,031	94.16	10,880,421	3.9
	Total Imports into Canada.		Imports from United States of America.		Imports from United Kingdom.	
	Non-competitive.	Competitive.	Non-competitive.	Competitive.	Non-competitive.	Competitive.
Imports under items in which United States of America share is between:—						
97% and 100% of total	\$106,827,034	\$39,563,413	\$106,475,666	\$39,252,361	\$282,658	\$266,607
89% and 96% "	9,081,864	43,093,493	8,443,592	39,894,338	281,586	2,021,091
75% and 88% "	6,737,264	69,451,012	5,440,243	59,116,831	438,136	7,590,343
Total	\$122,646,162	\$152,107,918	\$120,359,501	\$138,263,530	\$1,002,380	\$9,878,041