

Receipts for 1881.....	\$131,863
do. " 1882.....	185,553
do. " 1883.....	170,088
do. " 1884.....	146,838

The sources of this revenue for the year last past were spirits, \$97,821; tobacco, \$39,491; malt, \$8,876; miscellaneous, \$1,150. From the statement of goods of this class remaining in warehouse it would seem that both tobacco and spirits were in good supply at the close of the year. November and December both showed an average stock of 50,000 gallons in bond of the former and 70,000 pounds of the latter.

A very different story is told by the Custom House records of imports. The value of goods imported fell off from \$4,464,844 in the previous year to \$2,197,711 or less than half, last year. Every month but two shows a decline, and in the month of April, for example, instead of dutiable goods worth \$819,000 as in 1883, the dutiable imports of last April were only \$156,000 in value or less than one fifth entered for consumption.

Below is the statement showing the duty collected during the year ended 31st December 1883 and 1884 (the amount for December being estimated):—

	1884, Duty Col.	1883.
January.....	\$18,931.21	\$ 52,245.95
February.....	27,116.43	62,169.29
March.....	40,352.13	140,099.02
April.....	42,592.68	202,557.05
May.....	59,267.81	141,415.42
June.....	52,748.78	109,001.87
July.....	53,594.86	73,626.50
August.....	52,969.38	79,435.12
September.....	55,618.87	47,355.69
October.....	55,802.62	50,884.82
November.....	27,211.15	41,670.92
December.....	20,000.00	23,680.15
Total.....	\$506,195.93	\$1,024,142.70

NEW BRUNSWICK DEALS AND TIMBER.

The New Brunswick deal trade shows a great falling off. The quantity sent to trans-Atlantic ports last year would be, according to the *St. John Globe*, about 328,584,600 feet, compared with 404,287,676 feet in 1883, and 381,990,174 feet in 1882. The falling off of shipments from Miramichi, it is declared, has been enormous. Opinions differ as to the quantity of deals wintered over. One estimate of the stock throughout the Province is 50,000,000 feet. Of logs about 30,000,000 are held over. Lumber operations this winter in New Brunswick are likely to be one-third less than last year. We subjoin the *St. John* export figures for deals:—

Deals, 1882.....	201,418,717 sup. feet.
" 1883.....	181,518,182 "
" 1884.....	162,080,218 "

As regards timber there has been some increase in birch, but pine remains in about the same position as during the last two years:

1882.....	7,576 tons birch.	3,382 tons pine.
1883.....	11,050 "	3,888 "
1884.....	13,095 "	3,646 "

The *St. John Globe* prints a lengthy statement of the shipments from that city to various ports, fifty in number, all over the world. It also prints a condensed table of exports of deals thence in 1883. We have compiled a similar one for 1884, and for purposes of comparison, subjoin both:—

Ports.	1883.	1884.
	Deals, &c., s. ft.	Deals, &c., s. ft.
Africa.....	5,849,725	729,511
Australia.....	1,877,974	
Barrow.....	2,645,960	11,422,822
Bristol Chan'l....	25,292,085	4,859,045
Continent.....	18,321,454	2,341,607
Ireland.....	43,379,995	31,673,098
Liverpool.....	67,713,949	76,866,548
London.....	5,329,409	6,027,929
Scotland.....	6,799,286	1,632,883
Wales.....	1,848,803	17,078,956
Sundry.....	2,959,472	9,947,818
Total.....	181,518,182	152,182,400

It is thus shown that while there has been a large decrease in the total shipments the relative quantity sent to Liverpool has been greater by nearly nine million feet than the quantity sent there in 1883. Shipments to Africa have dwindled to three-quarters of a million feet. Australia, which took two cargoes in 1883, took none in 1884, and the imports of Ireland have been reduced nearly a third. The following returns received from the other principal ports in the Province show a generally decreased export:—

Year.	No. vessels.	Tons.	Deals, s. feet.
1883.....	53	27,483	23,415,607
1884.....	38	19,122	14,901,282

Year.	No. vessels.	Tons.	Deals, s. feet.
1883.....	3	1,370	1,350,000
1884.....	5	2,063	2,100,000

Year.	No. vessels.	Tons.	Deals, s. feet.
1883.....	44	26,847	18,726,737
1884.....	43	23,782	18,235,140

Year.	No. vessels.	Tons.	Deals, s. feet.
1883.....	278	172,519	149,004,441
1884.....	213	126,030	108,274,864

Year.	No. vessels.	Tons.	Deals, s. feet.
1883.....			21,090,150
1884.....			12,205,700

Year.	No. vessels.	Tons.	Deals, s. feet.
1883.....	2	839	737,406
1884.....			

(Included last year in Richibucto.)
At the head of the list of shippers stands, this year as last, Mr. Alexander Gibson, who has exported 106 million feet of deals last year in 118 vessels. Next him in order are W. Malcolm MacKay, R. A. & J. Stewart, Guy, Bevan & Co., and Samuel Schofield.

PETROLEUM.

"The prospects for the current year are as bright as were ever presented,"—such are the terms in which the outlook for 1884 is summarised by the *Petroleum Advertiser* of last week, and they form a very marked contrast with the condition of the industry twelve months before, when the market for both the crude and refined oil was depressed and "at the very time we should be reaping a rich harvest, prices are being forced to a minimum."

There is, at all events, no sign of exhaustion in the Canadian Oil Fields. The shipments of crude equivalent for the year just past were 60,000 barrels greater than those of the year before, and 100,000 barrels greater than those of two years before. Here are the totals:

Shipped in 1884.....	594,368 barrels.
" " 1883.....	584,380 "
" " 1882.....	492,583 "

And this increased production and shipment is in the face of the fact, as stated by the *Advertiser*, that no new wells have been put down during the past year of any ac-

count, and no new territory has been discovered, and the production has been greatly diminished by the lowness of price compelling producers to shut down small wells which do not pay at seventy-five cents per barrel.

The Grand Trunk Railway appears to have carried, during the year, 117,280 barrels of crude oil and 129,726 barrels refined, while the share of the Canada Southern was 40,045 barrels crude and 44,575 barrels refined. It is to be borne in mind that the market for crude oil has been low during the whole year. While the refiners have combined, and have been and are getting the very best prices for their production, the crude producer has been compelled to provide a paying market for his commodity, and in consequence another large refinery has just been started. During the year a second tanking company has been put in operation, and the monopoly in that line at the commencement of the year has been overcome. "The Standard Refinery was started to help out some few producers, and it has answered the purpose admirably. The Producers' Refinery (the Ross Syndicate) was opened in consequence of the growing difficulty to get any price whatever for crude oil. The refining capacity will continue to be increased as a big move is now being made at Oil Springs to establish a refinery at that point. A public meeting was held in that village of last week, and the initial steps were taken."

THE STATUTE OF LIMITATION.

The General Term of the Superior Court of the State of New York has given a decision in a case, *Eagle vs. Fisher*, involving the principle of the statute referred to, which will be of interest to the mercantile community. The defendant in the case, in 1883, accepted certain drafts in Esseg, Austria, where he then resided, and in July of the same year came to New York, where he engaged in business, but under a different name. In 1882, or nine years thereafter, he was discovered by the plaintiff, and was at once asked to pay his indebtedness. This he refused to do on the ground that the account had been due over six years, during all of which time the defendant had lived within the State, and for that reason it was outlawed. An action was immediately begun for the recovery of the debt, and the Court decided "that the Statute will not run in favor of a debtor who comes into the country under an assumed name and continues to reside therein under such assumed name, with the intent of concealing himself from his creditors, against a debt incurred under the real name." On the application of the plaintiff the case was appealed, and the judgment rendered in the lower court in favor of the defendant was reversed. This we think was a righteous decision; and as American precedents are often quoted in our courts, may have some bearing on a question of this kind should any such arise.

—The proprietor of the Tiverton tannery, Mr. John McDonald, writes: "Trade for the season has been very good with me, and fully up to expectations, although I hear complaints from others in business here in regard to dulness and scarcity of cash. The leather trade with me has been good and fair prices."