

THE ACTON FREE PRESS

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THE TRADE OF CANADA DURING 1874-5.

The following article from the Montreal Free Press is condensed for the careful attention of our readers. The vicissitudes through which the business of Canada has passed during the last eight months, have attracted more than unusual interest to the trade of Canada during the fiscal year, which closed on the 30th of June last.

Of our importations during the twelve months, was \$121,191,174, and of our exports \$89,062,396—the total volume of our transactions being \$209,853,570. These returns being nearly double the interest in the present depressed condition of business, we append them beneath, asking the reader to observe that the figures for each Province are only for eleven months, and that those for June are added at the end collectively, and not distributed among the various Provinces.

Table with 3 columns: Province, Imports, Exports. Rows include Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Prince Edward, British Columbia, and Total.

There are several points which invite comment in the transactions of the recent fiscal year, and first we have a large decline in the extent of our trade compared with the years immediately preceding. Considering the unusually large expansion which took place in our commerce during the four years ending in 1873, this decline is only what might naturally be expected. But let us see how much the shrinkage actually was. Our total trade in 1873 was \$217,241,516. In 1874 it was 216,738,167. In 1875 it was 209,853,570.

The decline in the value of our purchases of foreign goods in 1874-5 was \$12,191,174, or 10.5 per cent. It had been four times as much we believe it would have been had we not for Canada, for undoubtedly the financial difficulties which exist, with the consequent failures and losses taking place, are largely attributable to the drain upon our resources caused by having to pay the enormous foreign importations of recent years. It is gratifying to know, however, that construction has not in 1873-4, we had a shrinkage of \$110,425, during the past year, as we have seen, it was over \$6,000,000, and from the orders given to buyers sent over this season to Great Britain, the construction is likely to be still greater during the current twelve months. This is the true course to take to ease the monetary stringency and restore the business of the country to its normal condition.

We should almost be led to conclude from the statement of our exports, that the harvest of 1874 was not so bountiful as was generally supposed. Our exports during the year show a decline of \$8,689,932. The returns of our shipments abroad during the past three years were as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Exports. Rows for 1873, 1874, and 1875.

The dullness in the United States and in our lighter manufactures, accounts partially for the fact that the crops last year were not so well as usual. The only one of our exports which has been increased is our exports of wheat, crop of the far west, which has been increased by the large amount of wheat which has been sent to the United States for the purpose of being used as seed.

Placing all the circumstances together, it is not surprising that through the blisfully ignorant of the great expansion of 1872-3, when our exports were \$110,425,000, we are now in a position to have our exports only \$89,062,396.

of importers and the retail traders. The difference between our imports and exports became enormously large. Not to go further back than the past four years, the official figures show our imports to have exceeded our exports to the following amounts:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Imports, Exports. Rows for 1872, 1873, and 1874.

From various causes, the actual trade balance against us was doubtless much less than this amount; nevertheless, it is only necessary to add these figures to show the chief cause of the financial pressure which is at present so generally felt. The Dominion is being tried sorely to pay for its recent enormous importations of goods from other countries, and although the goods may be well worth the money, we have, in fact, no doubt that they are, still it is hard to find money enough when importers purchase nearly double what the country really requires.

Following the transactions of 1875, they cannot be regarded as satisfactory. Not that we consider the falling off in the total volume of trade as unfortunate; that was something inevitable after the great expansion which had previously obtained. But it is unsatisfactory that our exports have declined so much, and that our imports, notwithstanding all the warning which our importers received, were within some six millions of the previous year. Four imports had declined twenty millions, and our exports advanced to the extent they declined.

Experiences of a "Commercial Traveller."

BY "ONE OF THEM." From the Canadian Illustrated News. Commercial travellers, as a distinct class, exist in the most civilized countries. It is evinced by the increasing notice which is being taken of them in the prints of the day. Unfortunately, a large number of the lines, have well earned an unworthy reputation, but in this Canada of ours, the commercial travellers, as a class, are not so generally regarded as they are in the United States. It is a pity that there is still ample room for improvement; and to justify this admission, I will attempt to sketch a few of the more notable types of our travellers.

One very common now-a-days is the "green" Commercial Traveller, the frequency with which this veridant specimen occurs, is a proof of the rapidity with which the business of men on horseback is being carried on. He is a man of about thirty years of age, with a high forehead, and a pair of eyes which are as bright as the sun.

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are unimpeachable to him as his most experienced brethren—they chaff and bully him alternately, and it is a curious fact that the young merchant, we have the "young Commercial Traveller, happily a "rare axis," but detected and shunned by all who know his despicable nature. This is the man who, hypocritically that he is, makes it his business to worm himself into the confidence of his fellow-travellers, and then, at the first opportunity, poisons the ears of their employers with garbled accounts of their doing on the road, and who regards the too often greedy tails of country merchants with his forefinger of Jones, and the sprees of Robinson.

Romance in Real Life. An New York, in 1796, my store was in Maiden Lane, within three floors of the store of John Mowatt, an extensive dealer in shoes. His foreman was John Pelluso, who sat behind the counter stitching shoes and waiting on customers as they came in. One day a corpse was found by the dock at the foot of the street. The coroner took the jury from the neighborhood, among them Mowatt and his foreman, Pelluso. The corpse lay on a table in the centre of the room.

Some of the jurymen remarked that as soon as John Pelluso looked on the corpse, he started, turned pale, and blushed as if going to faint. He rallied, however, but his subsequent movements occasioned some curious remarks. The jury having rendered a verdict of death by drowning, were discharged. Mowatt turned around to look for his foreman, but he was not there. He stepped out of doors, saw him high up in the street, on a tall man, when he quickly turned a corner. All sorts of inquiries were made, but nothing could be heard of him. This, with his turning pale at the first view of the corpse, occasioned some strange remarks among jurors, for many days afterwards.

John Mowatt was a bachelor of thirty-five and Pelluso had been about thirty summers. One certain day, about one month after, I was in my morning stepped into Mowatt's store and asked for a pair of shoes. While John was trying how the shoes fitted, the lady enquired: "You had a man in your store—John Pelluso by name—what has become of him?" "Well," said Mowatt, "but what has become of him, I would give a good deal to learn." He then related the story as above stated.

"Strange," replied the lady. "And you have not seen him since?" "No," replied Mowatt. "I have not seen him since." "Yes, you have seen him," replied the lady. "I certainly," said Mowatt, "would not contradict a lady of your appearance, but I have not seen him to my knowledge." "Well," said the lady, "I saw John Pelluso, and that subject on whom we had the longest, was my husband. My family name is Randall. I was born in Philadelphia. I married (against the wishes of my parents) John Conner, a sober, industrious man, by trade a shoemaker. He took to drinking, neglected his business, and once struck me, while in liquor. We had no family, so I resolved, while we were stitching each other, to learn his trade, and to have a little money to live on."

"How to become puffed up—swallow a pint of yeast. With most men, life is like backgammon, half skill and half luck. 'What did you kill that cat for, Jesse?' 'For meeting, marin' it.' 'Most people are like eggs—too full of themselves to hold anything together.' A healthy club with a man at the end of it, will do more prevent orchard-robbing than a hundred signs of 'spring guns and man traps.'

Somebody has calculated that three million words were used by the parties in the Tilton-Beecher trial. And yet they produced no sentence. A person was boasting that he was sprung from a high family in England. "Yes," said a bystander, "I've seen some of the same high so high that their feet could touch the ground."

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THAT WONDERFUL MAN JOHN HOGG,

His pleasure in letting the good people of Acton and the Counties of Halton and Wellington know that he has just returned from the BRITISH AND FOREIGN MARKETS

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Determined to clear off the balance of Summer Stock, tremendous bargains will be given, such as no other house in Guelph can afford to give. OBSERVE THE PRICES OF A FEW OF THE LINES REDUCED. Rich Printed Lawns and Muslins, 7 1/2c, worth 12c. Those beautiful Celestial Lusterets Dress Goods to be rushed off at 12c, former price 25c. 100 yds Ladies' Silk Sewing, 25c, real price \$1. Black and Colored Silks at half price at the Great Guelph Dry Goods Store, the Lion. J. D. WILLIAMSON.

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