BUSINESS IS ON THE MEND

Trade Returns for Month of March Are Again Encouraging.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The final figures of Canada's trade for the last fiscal year, issued on Wednesday by the Customs Department, show total imports amounting to $298,123,792, a decrease of $60,249,793 as compared with the preceding year, and total exports of domestic products amounting to $259,922,366, a dcrease of $3,446,586.

Returns for March indicate a large increase in this year's trade. Imports totalled $33,863,362, an increase of $3,811,130. Exports totalled $18,397,974, an increase of $454,487.

During the year coin and bullion to the value of $9,988,442 was imported, as compared with $6,584,661 during 1907-08. The value of coin and bullion exported was only $1,589,793, as compared with $16,637,654 during the preceding year.

The grand total of Canadian trade was $559,635,951, as compared with $638,380,291 for 1907-08.

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MONTREAL BANK CLEARINGS.

A despatch from Montreal says: Financiers and others who are interested in the progress and expansion of the Dominion have regarded with increasing satisfaction the frequent signs and evidences of financial and industrial improvement throughout the country.

Montreal bank clearings for the month of April show in an unequivocal manner that the progress reported from ocean to ocean is general and sound. Last year the clearing for the months of April amounted to $111,092,633. This year they reached the large sum of $135,180,233, which is an increase of $24,087,600 over the previous year. Figures for 1907 were given as $117,054,598, which is also considerably smaller than this year's record. Bankers have reason to feel satisfied at the strength of the figures, and with the opening of navigation the return of normal trade conditions is assured.

Clearings, April 30, 1909	$135,180,233
Corres. month, 1908...	111,092,633
Corres. month, 1907...	117,054,598

HUNDREDS DIE BY TORNADO

Succession of Cyclones Sweep Through the Southern States.

A despatch from Atlanta, Georgia, says:—A series of cyclones and tornadoes, the like which have not been known for years, swept through the south on Thursday night and Friday, leaving in their wake hundreds of dead and mangled bodies and the dismantled wrecks of property worth many millions. An exact list of the dead and an accurate estimate of the monetary loss may not be compiled for days, but from along the path of the storm came tales of fearful loss of life and description of whole towns and villages completely wiped out. The storm wave seems to have had its origin in the north and swept from the lake region south in irregular fashion, now moderating its force as if spent, now growing more turbulent and angry.

The State of Tennessee was an especially heavy sufferer. At 10 o'clock on Friday careful estimates indicate that at least 50 people were killed in that State alone, while the property loss will not fall short of a million.

Memphis reports heavy loss from towns within a radius of one hundred miles in three States.

The tornado swept over Arkansas and killed eight persons near Mammoth Springs. Atlanta and most of Georgia escaped with only slight property loss. But two young people, a brother and sister, lost their lives here on Friday afternoon, by the capsizing of a rowboat during a sudden squall.

Striking Alabama and headed in a southeasterly direction, the hurricane continued upon its course of destruction on Friday night. Huntsville sends words of fifteen persons killed, several score injured, and 250 houses demolished. Immense damage was done in Madison county by hail and lightning.

$70,000 FIRE AT NORTH BAY.

Thought to Have Been Started By Burglars.

A despatch from North Bay says: Early on Sunday morning North Bay was visited by a disastrous fire, the fine new McKeown block, with stores and offices, being completely gutted, only the walls remaining. The loss will exceed $70,000, partly covered by insurance. There is strong suspicion that the fire was of incendiary origin, caused by the presence of burglars, who accidentally, or with the purpose of covering up their looting operations, set fire to the premises. Strongly substantiating this theory is the fact that when the stores were closed late Saturday night the electric lights were turned off, but when the fire was discovered the lights in Beamish and Smith's store, where the blaze originated, were burning.

SLIPPED OFF BRIDGE.

Samuel Cairns and Andrew Ruxton Drowned.

A despatch from Port Elgin, Ont., says: Two drownings occurred near Southampton, in the Saugeen River on Friday afternoon, the victims being Andrew Ruxton and Samuel Cairns, both of Chippewa Hill. It appears that they were engaged in making some repairs to Denis bridge, and in some manner they fell into the river, which is flowing at extra speed on account of the rains. The bridge was a new and extensive work, only completed last fall, but owing to quicksand one of the piers had given way. Mr. Cairns was an employee of the Saugeen Electric Light Company, and had been a sailor on the lakes for many years. Ruxton was postmaster at Chippewa Hill. Both were married and Cairns leaves four children.

WINNIPEG TO EDMONTON

The Last Fifty-Mile Gap Is Now Being Laid With Rails.

A despatch from Ottawa says: Mr. E. J. Chamberlin, General Manager of the G. T. P., who returned to Ottawa on Thursday morning after a six-weeks' tour of inspection of the new road, states that by next autumn the G. T. P will have 1,365 miles of completed road. Every bridge between Winnipeg and Edmonton has been completed, and the track is now being laid on the last fifty miles which constitutes the one gap between the two cities. This work will be pushed rapidly, and Mr. Chamberlin says there is little doubt as to the road being completed by June from the Red River to Saskatchewan. Fifty stations are now under construction between Winnipeg and Wainwright.

Mr. Chamberlin also announces that during the coming summer some 200 miles of branch lines in Alberta and Saskatchewan will be completed and ready to carry freight and passengers in the fall.

THE WORLD'S MARKETS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES.

Prices of Cattle, Grain, Cheese and Other Dairy Produce at

BREADSTUFFS.

Toronto, May 4.—Flour—Ontario wheat 90 per cent. patents, $4.70 to $4.75 to-day in buyers' sacks outside for export. Manitoba flour, first patents, $6.10 to $6.40 on track Toronto; second patents, $5.50 to $5.90, and strong bakers', $5.40 to $5.80 on track, Toronto.

Wheat—No. 1 Northern, May delivery, $1.24½, Bay ports; No. 2 $1.21½, and No. 3 $1.19½.

Ontario wheat—No. 2 wheat $1.18 to $1.19 outside.

Barley—No. 3 extra, 60c outside, and No. 3 at 57 to 58c outside.

Oats—Ontario No. 2 white, 47 to 47½c on track, Toronto, and 45 to 45½c outside. No. 2 Western Canada 47½c and No. 3 46c, Bay ports.

Peas—No. 2, 96c outside.

Rye—No. 2 73 to 74c outside.

Buckwheat—No. 2 63 to 64c outside.

Corn—No. 2 American yellow, 80c, on track, Toronto, and No. 2 at 79c on track, Toronto. Canadian corn, 74 to 75c on track, Toronto.

Bran--Cars, $21.50 to $22 in bulk outside, and shorts, $22.50 to $[illegible] outside.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Apples—$4.50 to $5.50 for choice qualities, and $3.50 to $4 for seconds.

Beans—Prime, $1.90 to $2, and handpicked, $2.10 to $2.15 per bushel.

Honey—Combs, $2 to $2.75 per dozen, and strained, 10 to 11c per pound.

Maple Syrup—95c to $1 a gallon.

Hay—No. 1 timothy $11 to $11 per ton on track here, and lower grades, $9 to $10 a ton.

Straw—$6.50 to $7.50 on track.

Potatoes—Car lots, 85 to 90c per bag on track.

Poultry—Chickens, dressed, 15 to 17c per pound; fowl, 12 to 13c; turkeys, 20 to 22c per pound.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—Pound prints, 21 to 23c; tubs and large rolls, 16 to 18c; inferior, 14 to 15c; creamery rolls, 25 to 26c, and solids, 20 to 21c.

Eggs—Case lots, 19c per dozen.

Cheese—Large cheese, old, 14 to 14½c per pound, and twins, 14¼ to 14½c. New cheese, 12¾ to 13c.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Bacon—Long clear, 12¾ to 13c per pound in case lots; mess pork, $21 to $21.50; short cut, $23 to $24.

Hams—Light to medium, 14 to 15c; do., heavy, 13 to 13½c; rolls, 11¼ to 11½c; shoulders, 10¾ to 11c; backs, 16½ to 17c; breakfast bacon, 15½ to 16c.

Lard—Tierces, 13¼c; tubs, 13½c; pails, 13¾c.

BUSINESS IN MONTREAL.

Montreal, May 4.—Peas — No. 2, $1.05 to $1.06. Oats—Canadian Western No. 2, 51 to 51½c; extra No. 1 feed, 50½ to 51c; No. 1 feed, 50 to 50½c; Ontario No. 2, 50 to 50½c; Ontario No. 3, 49 to 49½c; Ontario No. 4, 48 to 48½c. Barley—No. 2, 66 to 67c; feed, 59½ to 60c. Buckwheat—69½ to 70c. Flour—Manitoba Spring wheat patents, firsts, $6.10; Manitoba Spring wheat patents, seconds, $5.60; Manitoba strong bakers, $5.40; Winter wheat patents, $5.75; straight rollers, $5.50 to $5.60; straight rollers in bags, $2.70 to $2.75; extra, in bags, $2.25 to $2.35. Feed—Manitoba bran, $22 to $23; Manitoba shorts, $24 to $25; Ontario bran, $23 to $24; Ontario shorts, $24.50 to $25; Ontario middlings, $25 to $25.50; pure grain mouille, $33 to $35; mixed mouille, $28 to $30. Cheese—11½ to 11⅝c. Butter—24 to 24½c. Eggs—19 to 19½c per dozen.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Minneapolis, May 4.—Wheat—May, $1.20¾; July, $1.20⅝ to $1.20¾; cash, No. 1 hard, $1.24½; No. 1 Northern, $1.23½; No. 2 Northern, $1.21½ to $1.22; No. 3 Northern $1.18½ to $1.19½. Flour—First patents, $5.80 to $6; second patents, $5.70 to $5.90; first clears, $4.75 to $4.95; second clears, $3.25 to $3.45. Bran—In bulk, $23 to $23.50.

Chicago, May 4.—Cash wheat—No. 2 red, $1.41¾ to $1.42¾; No. 3 red, $1.31¾ to $1.40; No. 2 hard, $1.22¾ to $1.29¾; No. 3 hard, $1.18¾ to $1.25¾; No. 1 Northern, $1.22¾ to $1.24¾; No. 2 Northern, $1.20¾ to $1.23¾; No. 3 Spring, $1.18 to $1.22¾. Corn—No. 2 yellow, 73½ to 74c; No. 3, 71⅞ to 72½c; No. 3 yellow, 73½c. Oats—No. 3 white, 55 to 56¾c; No. 4 white, 52½ to 56c.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Montreal, May 4.—Prime beeves sold at 5½ to 6c per pound; pretty good animals, 4¼ to 5¼c; milkmen's strippers, 3½ to 4½c; common stock, 3 to 4c per pound. Calves sold at $1.50 to $10 each, or 2½ to 5½c per pound. Sheep sold at 5 to 6c per pound. Lambs sold at $4 to $6 each. Good lots of fat hogs sold at $8.25 to $8.33 per 100 pounds.

Toronto, May 4.—Butchers' ranged all the way from $3.75 to $5.60 and from $2.50 up for cows. Some fine cows brought as high as $5.30. A large shipment of hogs was brought and made the market a little easier. The same prices rule, however, at $7.25 to $7.50.

HEIR TO HOLLAND'S THRONE.

Queen Wilhelmina Gave Birth to a Daughter.

A despatch from The Hague, Holland, says: Wilhelmina, Queen of the Netherlands, gave birth to a daughter on Friday morning. The condition of her Majesty is most satisfactory, the infant Princess is doing well, and Holland is celebrating the happy event from one end of the country to the other with expressions of joy and gratification such as seldom before have been witnessed on the part of this placid people. The political significance of the occurrence lies in the fact that there is now an heir to the throne of the Netherlands, a circumstance that very greatly enhances the chances of the country for continued independence.

Russia will not withdraw her army from Persia until the Shah makes good his pledges of reform.

GREAT BRITAIN'S BIG DEFICIT

Expenditure Exceeds the Revenue By $78,810,000.

A despatch from London says: Mr. David Lloyd-George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, presented the budget in the House of Commons on Thursday. He estimates the revenue in 1909-10 as $741,950,000 and the expenditure $820,760,000, showing a deficit of $78,810,000. It is pointed out that the increased expenditure is due mainly to old-age pensions and appropriations for the navy.

Dealing with the past year's finances, the Chancellor says that nearly all branches of trade and industry suffered serious depression, the foreign trade returns showing a diminution in value to the amount of nearly $570,000,000 as compared with 1907. The Chancellor adds that it is impossible to prophecy any immediate rapid recovery, but he is of the opinion that there are some indications that foreign trade is beginning to improve.

The revenue for 1908 fell short of the budget estimate of $751,750,000. The national debt now amounts to $3,770,606,545.

REFORMS FORESHADOWED.

The social reforms which Mr. Lloyd-George seeks to introduce in Britain are based, in the main, on German experience, though the idea of setting aside £100,000 for labor exchanges for both skilled and unskilled labor is borrowed from France. There is to be a State insurance against loss of employment. The Board of Trade is developing a scheme under which only deserving workmen out of work will benefit. A vast scheme was outlined by which the State will aid in the development of natural resources, and a definite proposal was made to grant £200,000 to start afforestation, and for the reclamation of waste lands and the encourage-

waste lands and the encourage-

RECAST OF FISCAL SYSTEM

The new taxation, by which the estimated deficit of nearly £16,000,000 is to be made good, is the most comprehensive recast of the British fiscal system since the first free trade budget, over sixty years ago, The Chancellor's proposals embody almost all the schemes which have been advanced in radical programmes for the past twenty years. The list includes a supertax on incomes of over £5,000, a tax on mining royalties, a tax on urban undeveloped land, a tax on ungotten minerals, a tax on the unearned increment in land, increased death duties, and a tax on Stock Exchange speculation. The whiskey duty is increased by one-third; the tobacco duty is increased eight pence per pound; there is also an increased tax on motor cars.

Fearing that the tax on tea and sugar would be increased, the importers of these commodities have been rushing huge quantities out of bond lately, but there is no new taxation in this direction. "We ought to avoid taxes on the necessaries of life, and tea and sugar are necessaries of life," said Mr. Lloyd-George in his speech.

BRITISH CAPITAL COMING..

Financiers and Investors to Pay Canada a Visit.

A despatch from Montreal says: Sir Edward Clouston, vice-president and general manager of the Bank of Montreal, who returned from England on Sunday made the interesting announcement that a number of British capitalists and investors will come over to the Dominion this summer for the purpose of seeing the country. Sir Edward expressed the opinion that the recent budget, which places a burden on investors, will result in diverting a great deal of capital to Canada. Care, however, would have to be taken against projects of doubtful merit, as such would do great injury to Canada.

WILL SERVE FULL TERM.

Earl Grey Will be Third Governor . to Do So.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The announcement that Earl Grey will serve out his full term of six years, or until December, 1910, has been received with general satisfaction. Although the Governor-General is appointed for six years, it has been usual to recall him at the end of the fifth year. The Marquis of Dufferin and Earl Minto were the only predecessors of Earl Grey to serve out the full term.

BIG INCREASE IN REVENUE.

Customs for April Shows Half Million More Than Last April.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The Customs revenue for April, the month of the new fiscal year, was $3,961,678. This is an increase of $511,730 over the same month last year, when the collections totalled $3,449,547.

TERRIBLE DOINGS AT ADANA

Destruction of the Town Completed---Loss of Life in the Province 30,000.

A London Daily Mail special sent from Mersina, Asia Minor, on Monday night, via Cyprus, says:—Two Turkish regiments, landing here on Saturday, proceeded to Adana, where the massacres of Christians began on April 14, and resumed, late Sunday night, the wholesale murdering of Armenians and the burning of their property. Thousands of Armenians were burnt alive, those attempting to escape being shot down b ythe troops. The destruction of Adana was completed. The loss of life in the whole province of Adana is estimated at 30,000. The material losses of Europeans is enormous. The British and foreign warships here are inactive. In Hadjin, a town of 15,000 people, thousands of Armenians and three American ladies are besieged by Moslem troops and irregulars. Four Germans, previously reported killed at Bakdjeh, have arrived at Mersina safely. The Armenian population of that town perished.