

CHAPTER IV.

TRADE.

186. The Customs tariffs of 1858 and 1859 were the first ever adopted in this country, with the expressed intention of promoting home manufactures by means of a protective policy, and during the following seven years manufactures in consequence made considerable progress.

187. After Confederation a change was made, and in 1867 and 1868 there was a general reduction in duty, and a revenue tariff was framed, which continued in force until the 15th March, 1879, when a return was made to the incidentally protective principle, and the present tariff became law. The principal alterations made since that date have been the repeal of the duties on tea and coffee, while a number of articles have been added to the free list, and numerous minor changes made in other duties.

IMPORTS and Exports, and Total Trade, 1868 to 1885.

Year ended 30th June.	Total Imports.	Total Exports.	Excess of Imports.	Excess of Exports.	Total Imports and Exports.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1868.....	73,459,644	57,567,888	15,891,756	.....	131,027,532
1869.....	70,415,165	60,474,781	9,940,384	.....	130,889,946
1870.....	74,814,339	73,573,490	1,240,849	.....	148,387,829
1871.....	96,092,971	74,173,618	21,919,353	.....	170,266,589
1872.....	111,430,527	82,639,663	28,790,864	.....	194,070,190
1873.....	128,011,281	89,789,922	38,221,359	.....	217,801,203
1874.....	128,213,582	89,351,928	38,861,654	.....	217,565,510
1875.....	123,070,283	77,886,979	45,183,304	.....	200,957,262
1876.....	93,210,346	80,966,435	12,243,911	.....	174,176,781
1877.....	99,327,962	75,875,393	23,452,569	.....	175,203,355
1878.....	93,081,787	79,323,667	13,758,120	.....	172,405,454
1879.....	81,964,427	71,491,255	10,473,172	.....	153,455,682
1880.....	86,489,747	87,911,458	.....	1,421,711	174,401,205
1881.....	105,330,840	98,290,823	7,040,017	.....	203,621,663
1882.....	119,419,500	102,137,203	17,282,297	.....	221,556,703
1883.....	132,254,022	98,085,804	34,168,218	.....	230,339,826
1884.....	116,397,043	91,406,496	24,990,547	.....	207,803,539
1885.....	108,941,486	89,238,361	19,703,125	.....	198,179,847
Total.....	1,841,924,952	1,480,185,164	363,161,499	1,421,711	3,322,110,116