

241. The total value of imports and exports, and amount of duty collected in 1886 as compared with 1885, was as follows :—

	Imports.	Exports.	Duty collected.
1885.....	\$108,941,486	\$89,238,361	\$19,133,559
1886.....	104,424,561	85,251,314	19,448,123

Value of imports and exports.

There was, therefore, a decrease in the value of imports of \$4,516,925, and in the value of exports of \$3,987,047, and an increase in the amount of duty collected of \$314,564.

242. The extreme depression of trade which has prevailed almost all over the world during recent years, has been more or less felt in Canada, as is apparent from the following figures :—

Depression of trade.

Excess of total trade of 1883 over 1884.....	\$22,536,287
“ “ 1884 “ 1885.....	9,623,692
“ “ 1885 “ 1886.....	8,503,972

The decline in 1886 was less than in 1885, and in conjunction with the trade returns for the current year, which exhibit gratifying results, and with reports of renewed commercial activity from other countries, may fairly be taken as an indication that the depression is passing away.

243. The following comparative statement of the quantities and values of the principal articles of food exported during the years ended 1882 and 1886 respectively, will show also that the decrease in the total value of our foreign trade is due more to a decline in values than to a falling off in business done. It will be seen that in every instance, except in that of cattle, the percentage of increase or decrease in value was respectively considerably smaller or larger than the corresponding percentages in quantities. The decline in value of wheat, flour, corn, sheep, butter and cheese, being especially noticeable :—

Decline in values.