

241. The total foreign trade of British possessions has increased very largely since 1871 ; but, as will be seen from the following figures, the trade with foreign countries has increased in a greater ratio than that with the United Kingdom, which has been steadily decreasing :—

Similar proportion of total trade.

PROPORTION OF THE TRADE WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM TO THE TOTAL FOREIGN TRADE OF BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

1871	51.41 per cent.
1875	52.33 "
1880	49.36 "
1884	46.72 "
1885	48.44 "
1886	45.31 "
1887	44.14 "

242. The following table, taken from Mulhall's "Fifty Years of National Progress," p. 30, shows the distribution of the trade of the United Kingdom at various dates, and shows also that the trade with India and the Colonies has increased in a very much greater degree than that with foreign countries :—

Distribution of the trade of the United Kingdom 1840-1885.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1840-1885.

TRADE WITH	MILLIONS £.				PERCENTAGE.			
	1840.	1860.	1875	1885.	1840	1860.	1875.	1885.
Colonies	34	89	161	170	30	24	24	27
United States.....	23	68	95	118	20	18	15	18
France	6	31	74	59	6	8	11	9
Germany.....	5	34	56	50	5	9	8	8
Various.....	45	153	270	245	39	41	42	38
Total.....	113	375	656	642	100	100	100	100

243. The following table gives the value of the imports and exports and the amount of duty collected at each port of entry in the Dominion during the year 1888 :—

Imports and exports at each port in the Dominion, 1887.