

246. The figures in the preceding table must only be taken as indicative of the channels by which the goods enter the Dominion, and not as by any means representing the individual consumption of each Province. Quebec contains the principal ports of entry by the St. Lawrence, and Ontario the principal ports of entry for goods from the United States; therefore it is clear that a very large portion of the duty collected is really paid by the other Provinces, and it is probable that the largest portion of the duty collected in the Province of Quebec is actually paid by the Province of Ontario. The same remarks are equally applicable to exports, even many products of Prince Edward Island being taken across to the mainland and thence shipped from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick ports, to which Provinces they are credited as exports. According to the Trade and Navigation Returns, 1,249 head of cattle were exported from Ontario to Great Britain, whereas the actual facts were, that out of 123,000 head shipped from Montreal during the season of 1890, no less than 112,000 were from Ontario. Manitoba wheat exported is rarely credited to that Province, but to the one in which lies the port of actual shipment. Coal from the North-West Territories sent to the United States is included in British Columbia exports. Numerous other instances might be given, but enough has been said to show that the official returns of imports and exports by Provinces are of no value as indicating the consumption and production of individual Provinces and only tend to show which Provinces contain the largest importing and exporting centres.

247. The following table gives the value of goods entered for consumption at three periods since Confederation, viz. : in 1871, 1879 and 1889, and shows also the countries from which imported, the values of imports from each country and the percentage in each case to the total imports :—

13½

Returns of consumption by Provinces not complete.

Value of goods entered for consumption, and countries from which imported, 1871, 1879, 1889.