

discussion of which would not come within the scope of a work of this description.

Duty collected.

289. The amount of duty collected per head was less than in any year since 1885. The duty collected on exports had accrued in the previous year, as the export duties were removed by proclamation on 15th October, 1890. The percentage of duty collected on the value of total imports was 16·13, as compared with 19·52 in 1891, and on the value of goods entered for consumption it was 17·56 per cent in 1892, and 20·66 per cent in 1891.

Interprovincial trade.

290. There are at present, unfortunately, no means existing whereby the amount of trade annually carried on between the provinces can be ascertained, but it certainly is much larger than is generally understood, and to a considerable extent has taken the place of what was formerly foreign trade. Its value was calculated a few years ago at \$80,000,000 per annum, in which case it is not unlikely that upward of \$100,000,000 would represent its value at the present time.

Imports of 1891 and 1892 compared as to quantity and value.

291. While, however, there is no doubt that the interprovincial trade ought to be taken into consideration when dealing with the trade of the country, yet, being practically an unknown quantity, it has to be put on one side, leaving the figures of the external trade as the only ones available, either for information or comparison. It can easily be understood, however, that owing to the continual fluctuations in price, values alone cannot give a correct idea of the extent to which the trade of the country is increasing or decreasing, and in order to obtain some information concerning its volume as well as its value, the following tables are given, in which the actual increase or decrease in value is divided into two parts, the one representing the variation in volume and the other in price. For example, take the article cotton, as given in the next table, the imports of which in 1891 amounted to 35,643,056 lbs., valued at \$3,603,185, while those of 1892 were 42,075,440 lbs., valued at \$3,389,232, the value in the latter year being \$214,000 less than in the former. Now, had the quantities been the same as in 1891, the value would have been \$864,000 less, owing to the fall in price, but this decrease in value is offset to the extent of \$650,000 by an increase in quantity. Some tables on the above principle, relating to exports only, were given in the Year Book, 1891, which have been continued in the present issue and are given below. Time did not then permit of imports being dealt with in a similar manner, but this has now been done, as regards the imports of 1892, in the following table, in which as many articles over \$50,000 in value have been taken as the nature of the returns would permit. Individual calculations for 219 articles have been made in order to make up the 68 specified articles in the table, and it is considered these are sufficient to justify the assumption that the remaining articles in each class may be taken in the same ratio. It will be seen that not only a fairer but also a more instructive estimate can be formed of the condition of the trade of the country by this mode of comparison than by the ordinary one of values only.