

The condition of the export trade of the last five years is more clearly shown by this method, in the following table, than it could be by a mere statement of actual values :—

—	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Actual value of exports..	102,006,490	100,586,853	99,528,351	106,378,752	119,685,410
Value at prices of previous year.....	101,946,000	103,906,000	99,627,000	111,317,000	125,090,000
Variation from quantities	+ 6,261,000	+ 1,900,000	— 958,000	+ 11,789,000	+ 18,712,000
“ prices....	+ 61,000	— 3,319,000	— 100,000	— 4,939,000	— 5,405,000
Actual difference in value.....	+ 6,322,237	— 1,419,637	— 1,058,504	+ 6,850,401	+ 13,306,658

—	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Actual value of total trade*	223,711,520	213,680,836	204,780,862	216,966,232	230,979,431
Value at prices of previous year.....	226,277,000	221,087,000	215,781,000	221,434,000	240,204,000
Variation from quantities	+ 13,611,000	— 2,621,000	+ 2,193,000	+ 16,653,000	+ 23,239,000
“ prices....	— 2,564,000	— 7,408,000	— 11,002,000	— 4,469,000	— 9,225,000
Actual difference in value.....	+ 11,048,324	— 10,030,684	— 8,899,976	+ 12,185,370	+ 14,013,199

* Imports for Home Consumption and Exports of Canadian produce only.

In order to ascertain in what proportion the changes in a series of years in the values both of particular items and in the grand total, have been due to an increased or diminished volume of articles or to a variation in their price, tables relating to the exports of Canadian produce have been prepared on a plan suggested some time ago in the “Journal of the Royal Statistical Society,” by Mr. Stephen Bourne, F.S.S., by which, by means of index numbers, it can be readily seen in what respects the results of the several years correspond to or differ from one another, both as regards quantity and price. The year 1883 has been taken as the year of comparison, because in that year—with the exception of 1892, 1893, 1896 and 1897 the total trade of the country reached the highest amount since confederation, and, as long as the conditions of trade are fairly equal, it is not very material which year is used for the purpose. Individual calculations have been made for 63 distinct articles, in order to make up the several groups in the table, and these furnish a wide enough range for assuming that the remaining articles, many of which cannot, for want of definite information in the Trade and Navigation Returns as to quantities, be so estimated, may be taken in the same ratio as the specified articles are found to yield. The num-