

Subsection 1.—Historical Statistics of Canadian Trade.

A general view of the trade of Canada in the fiscal years from 1868 to 1931 is furnished in Table 1 (p. 416), giving the imports of merchandise for home consumption, dutiable and free, and the exports of Canadian and foreign produce, the total trade as here given being the aggregate of the two. Necessarily, some difficulties have been met in maintaining comparable statistics through such a length of time, one of the most serious of these arising through different methods adopted in dealing with exports of foreign produce. For example, the shrinkage in the exports of foreign produce after 1920 has been due to change of statistical method rather than to actual diminution in value or volume of such goods exported. For the past 11 years, re-exports of foreign products from bonded warehouses have no longer been included in Canadian trade statistics either as imports or as exports, while the exports of foreign produce during this period have been composed of goods which had previously been entered as imports for home consumption. Such goods are debited to Canada when entering this country, and should be credited to Canada when re-exported.

From Table 2 it will be observed that, in most of the years from Confederation to the outbreak of the Great War, imports entered for consumption exceeded total exports, especially during the great growing period from 1904 to 1914. From 1915 to 1929, except in the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1921, there was an annual excess of total exports over imports entered for consumption. In the fiscal years ended Mar. 31, 1930 and 1931, however, there was an excess of imports changed to an excess of exports in 1932.

The percentage of exports to imports rose to a peak of 164.62 in 1918, owing to the exportation of war supplies, then dropped to 97.60 in 1921, rose again to 143.28 in 1926 and has since declined to 109.72 in 1929, 91.72 in 1930 and 90.12 in 1931, rising to 101.56 in 1932.

The values of coin and bullion imported and exported are shown in Table 3. Amounts collected in export duties from 1868 to 1892, and in import duties from 1868 to 1931, together with the cost of collection expressed as a percentage of the total duties, are stated by years in Table 4. Tables 5 and 6 show respectively our exports of Canadian produce and our imports for home consumption, furnishing figures of our trade with the United Kingdom, United States and other countries since 1868. These figures show the overwhelming predominance of the two great English speaking countries in our foreign trade; in the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1931, for example, 71.1 p.c. of our exports of domestic produce was shipped to these two countries, which, in the same year, together provided 81.0 p.c. of our imports for home consumption. Tables 7 and 8 show respectively by years the percentage proportions of imports from the United Kingdom and the United States to totals of dutiable and free imports since 1907, and the *ad valorem* rates of duty collected on imports from these and from all countries from 1868 to 1931.

Importations of important raw materials used in Canadian manufacturing industries are given in Table 9 for the fiscal years ended 1911 to 1931.