

Section 3.—Statistics of External Trade.*

NOTE.—For the correct interpretation of the statistics of external trade, it is necessary that the following definitions and explanations of the terms used should be carefully kept in mind.

Fiscal Years.—The Canadian fiscal year ended on June 30 of the years from 1868 to 1906, and on Mar. 31 of 1907 and subsequent years.

Quantities and Values.—In all tables of imports and exports, the quantities and values are based upon the declarations of importers (import entries) and exporters (export entries), as subsequently checked by customs officials.

Imports: Valuation.—“Imports” means “Imports entered for consumption”. “Entered for consumption” does not necessarily imply that the goods have been actually consumed in Canada, but that they have passed into the possession of the importer and that duty has been paid on that portion liable for duty.

Under the main provisions of the law, the value of merchandise imported into Canada is the fair market value or price thereof when sold for home consumption in the principal markets of the country from which, and at the same time when, said merchandise was exported directly to Canada; but the value shall not be less than the price to jobbers and wholesalers generally, nor less than the actual cost of production at the time of shipment plus a reasonable advance for cost of selling, and profit. (See Sections 35 to 45 of the Customs Act.)

For Customs entry purposes, the value of the currency of the country of export is converted to Canadian currency at exchange ratios as authorized by law and Orders in Council. (See Section 55 of the Customs Act and Orders in Council respecting currency valuations.)

Canadian Exports: Valuation.—“Canadian produce” exported includes Canadian products or manufactures, also exports of commodities of foreign origin which have been changed in form or enhanced in value by further manufacture in Canada, such as sugar refined in Canada from imported raw sugar, flour ground from imported wheat, and articles constructed or manufactured from imported materials. The value of exports of Canadian merchandise is the actual cost or the value at the time of exportation at the points in Canada whence consigned for export.

Foreign Exports: Valuation.—“Foreign produce” exported consists of foreign merchandise which had previously been imported (entered for home consumption). The value of such commodities is the actual cost.

Countries to which Trade is Credited.—Imports are classified as received from the countries whence they were consigned to Canada. The countries of consignment are the countries from which the goods have come, without interruption of transit, save in the course of transshipment or transfer from one conveyance to another. The countries whence goods are consigned are not necessarily the countries of actual origin, since goods produced in one country may be purchased by a firm in another country and thence despatched, after a longer or shorter interval, to Canada. In such cases the second country would be the country of consignment, to which the goods would be credited. An example is the case of tea grown in the Orient but purchased in the bonded market in London, England; Canadian statistics record such imports as coming from the United Kingdom.

* Revised by W. A. Warne, Chief, External Trade Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This Branch publishes the Annual Report of the Trade of Canada, the Condensed Preliminary Report of the Trade of Canada (annual), the Quarterly Report of the Trade of Canada, the Calendar Year Report of the Trade of Canada, the Summary of the Trade of Canada (monthly), etc. For complete list of the publications of this Branch see Chapter XXIX, Section 1, under “External Trade”.