

### Subsection 6.—Principal Commodities Imported and Exported.

**Canada's Principal Imports.**—Statement IX, which follows, shows the long-term trend of principal commodities imported into Canada in the fiscal years 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 and 1934, the commodities being arranged in order of importance in 1934. In the interpretation of the trends in imports shown by the figures in this statement, the effect of price changes and of fluctuations of the so-called business cycle should be kept in mind. Thus the Bureau of Statistics' index number of wholesale prices on the 1926 base was 59.3 in the calendar year 1889, 52.1 in 1899, 59.5 in 1909, 134.0 in 1919, 95.6 in 1929 and 67.1 in 1933, these calendar years approximating to the fiscal years ended 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 and 1934. In the matter of business fluctuations, the fiscal year 1910 was influenced by the general development boom in Western Canada, 1920 was affected by the feverish activity which immediately followed the War, 1930 represented the end of the security inflation period and the beginning of the downturn, while in 1934 the effects of the depression and price decline were still being severely felt, although there was a distinct improvement as compared with 1933.

During the period of 44 years covered by the statement, great changes have occurred in the character of the leading imports, due to developments both in the industrial organization of the country and the goods consumed by the people. Thus in 1890, many present-day leading imports such as crude petroleum, automobiles and parts, artificial silk, electric apparatus, aluminium, were either non-existent or formed very insignificant items of trade. Imports of farm implements in 1890 were valued at only \$161,000 but, due to the tremendous agricultural expansion in Canada since that time, as well as to increasing mechanization of agricultural operations, imports of farm implements have grown to a large item in spite of the wide development of their manufacture within the country. On the other hand, a number of the leading imports of 1890, such as woollen goods and raw wool, sugar and products, cotton goods and raw cotton, tea, grain products and meats, have become relatively much less important as imports. Then again, there were certain leading imports in 1890, such as coal, rolling-mill products, machinery and fruits, which still remain among the chief items of imports owing to the absence of coal and high grade iron ore deposits in the central portion of Canada, where population and industry are chiefly concentrated, and to the demand for fruits which cannot be grown in Canada.

#### IX.—CANADA'S LEADING IMPORTS, FISCAL YEARS 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1934.

NOTE.—Commodities arranged in order of importance, 1934.

No.	Commodity.	1890.	1900.	1910.	1920.	1930.	1934.
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1	Coal.....	8,013,156	11,012,223	27,516,678	60,072,629	56,812,418	29,201,459
2	Crude petroleum.....	-	23,244	1,189,071	20,306,693	50,951,202	25,010,663
3	Rolling-mill products.....	5,645,704	11,905,937	15,692,051	39,985,746	61,943,553	16,533,843
4	Fruits.....	2,400,851	3,133,407	8,316,462	33,463,270	34,277,882	16,041,568
5	Sugar and products.....	6,452,654	8,610,845	14,962,770	73,618,354	27,987,156	14,535,640
6	Raw cotton.....	3,539,249	4,229,198	9,384,801	33,854,457	21,632,463	14,843,617
7	Alcoholic beverages.....	1,695,161	1,938,112	4,459,566	9,135,536	45,026,487	14,223,899
8	Machinery.....	1,877,551	5,159,952	14,690,873	36,716,791	69,702,213	13,847,326
9	Automobile parts.....	-	-	269,586	12,674,823	35,746,929	13,760,242
10	Cotton goods.....	3,792,584	6,399,705	17,928,093	51,435,017	27,275,170	11,211,567
11	Woollen goods (incl. carpets).....	10,900,600	9,427,575	20,767,010	45,545,127	32,632,927	9,560,085
12	Books and printed matter.....	1,404,583	1,588,432	4,127,179	11,228,018	18,130,779	8,372,627
13	Tea.....	3,073,643	3,604,027	5,347,854	8,336,163	10,694,379	7,389,717
14	Flax, hemp and jute.....	1,416,217	3,551,037	5,340,312	15,923,836	14,995,198	7,295,514
15	Petroleum, refined.....	690,283	830,025	2,326,681	10,566,692	25,180,476	6,929,314