

VII.—TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Included in this section are tables showing the exports and imports of Canada in different categories and for varying periods. These are followed by grain statistics and statistics relating to bounties, patents and copyrights, trade marks, etc.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF CANADA.

Aggregate External Trade.—From Table 1, which shows the trade of Canada for each of the fiscal years 1868 to 1914, it will be seen that the aggregate external trade of the Dominion for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1914, attained the value of \$1,129,744,725, as compared with \$1,085,264,449 in 1912-13. Thus the record of 1912-13, when for the first time the value of Canada's external trade was over a billion (or one thousand million) dollars, was exceeded by \$44,480,276, an increase during the year at the rate of 4.1 p.c. A noteworthy feature of this increase is that it was due not to expansion of imports but to expansion of exports. These increased during the year by \$85,765,871, or in the ratio of 21.8 p.c., whilst the value of the imports declined by \$41,285,595, or 5.9 p.c. The table shows also that the trade of the country has increased to nearly three times the value of what it was at the close of the nineteenth century (1900), the increase more exactly representing 196 p.c., while during the five years ended 1913-14 the increase was from \$693,211,221 (1903-10) to \$1,129,744,725 (1913-14), or in the ratio of about 63 p.c. The total trade of the Dominion with the United Kingdom in 1913-14 reached the value of \$355,144,510 and with the United States \$626,265,385, the balance of \$148,334,830 representing trade with countries other than these two.

Effects of the War.—The outbreak of the great war involving the British Empire as from August 4, 1914, had an immediate and profound effect upon the world's trade, first by the total rupture of trading relations between the belligerent states and secondly by diversion of trade into new and different channels. One of the consequences of the war was the transfer to Canada in trust for Great Britain of gold from the United States. In comparing, therefore, the value of Canadian trade in 1914-15 with that of 1913-14, it is necessary to eliminate coin and bullion, the imports of which in 1914-15, according to the Customs returns, were of the value of \$131,992,992, as compared with \$15,235,305 in 1913-14. Exclusive, therefore, of coin and bullion, the aggregate external trade of Canada for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1915, was of the value of \$958,894,411, as compared with \$1,090,948,716 in 1913-14, a decrease of \$132,054,305, or 12.1 p.c. Of the total value, exports amounted to \$461,442,509 in 1914-15, as compared with \$455,437,224 in 1913-14 and imports to \$497,451,902, as compared with \$635,511,492, the increase in the exports being \$6,005,285, or 1.3 p.c., and the decrease in the imports being \$138,059,590, or 21.7 p.c. In these comparisons it is important to note that the values are affected by variation in prices due to the war and, especially in the case of exports, to the rise in the prices of grain and flour. The ratio of exports to imports for 1914-15, excluding coin and bullion, is 92.7 p.c., as compared with 71.6 p.c. in