

INCREASE IS SLIGHT

REVENUE FROM CUSTOMS IS A DISAPPOINTMENT

While Volume of Imports is Much Larger Than Last Year the Growth Has Been on the Non-dutiable Merchandise

The foreign commerce of the United States in the fiscal year just ended exceeds that of any preceding year, having been \$2,635,970,333, in comparison with \$2,451,914,642 in 1904, the previous record year.

An analysis of the statistics of foreign commerce during the year ending June 30, 1905, just prepared by the department of commerce and labor through its bureau of statistics, shows that both imports and exports made new high records, imports having exceeded by \$92,000,000 the total recorded in 1903, and exports having for the first time surpassed the figures of 1901. In 1903 imports first passed the billion-dollar limit, with a total of \$1,025,719,237; in 1904 they again fell below one billion dollars in value, being \$991,507,500. Exports first rose above one billion dollars in value during the fiscal year 1892, but fell below that limit in the following year, and so remained until 1897, when the total was \$1,050,993,556. In 1898 the total exports were \$1,231,482,330; in 1900, \$1,394,483,082; in 1901, \$1,487,764,991, a total which was not again equaled until 1905, when the figures stood at \$1,518,462,833, not only surpassing the record made in 1901, but for the first time in the history of our commerce passing the one-and-a-half billion-dollar limit.

Customs Fall Short

An unusual feature of the statistics of the fiscal year 1905 is the very small increase in customs revenue, despite the very great increase in dutiable imports. The year's imports were valued at \$1,117,507,500, as against \$991,087,371 in the preceding year, an increase of \$126,420,129. The imports of dutiable merchandise during 1905 were valued at \$600,071,238, as against \$536,957,131 in 1904 an increase of \$63,114,107. Despite this fact, however, the customs revenue derived from the largely increased dutiable imports of 1905 is less than \$1,000,000 in excess of that derived from the imports of 1904, being \$262,060,518 for 1905, as against \$261,274,565 for 1904. This decrease in customs revenue is in part due to the admission of Cuban products, especially sugar and tobacco, at a reduction of 20 per cent from the regular tariff rates, under the reciprocity treaty of December 27, 1903, and in part to the unusually large amount of dutiable merchandise remaining in warehouse at the end of the year upon which duty had not been paid, as well as to several other causes which can not be fully stated until complete details of the year's imports are available.

Principal Increases

Details of commerce for the twelve months are not in all cases available, but a careful examination of the complete figures for the eleven months affords an opportunity to determine the articles in which the principal increases or decreases occur. On the import side the largest increases occur in the classes "manufacturers' materials, wholly or partially manufactured," in which the figures will be about \$70,000,000 in advance of those for the preceding year, and

in "luxuries and other articles of voluntary use," which seem likely to be more than \$15,000,000 in excess of the figures of 1904. "Articles of food and animals" have increased by over forty-five millions, and "manufactured articles ready for consumption" have fallen of about \$4,000,000.

The principal articles which showed decreased importations during the eleven months ending with May, 1905, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year were manufactured articles, including chemicals, cotton goods, feathers, fiber manufactures, glass and glassware, iron and steel manufactures, metal manufactures, and wool manufactures. Tea, cocoa, and vegetables were the only important food products to show a decrease, while the importations of breadstuffs, coffee, fish, fruits and nuts, provisions (including meat and dairy products,) spices, and sugar were materially larger than those of the preceding year. Raw and partially manufactured articles imported for use as manufacturers' materials show increased importations, especially copper, cotton, undressed furs, India rubber, lead paper stock, raw silk, tin, unmanufactured tobacco, unmanufactured wood, and unmanufactured wool. Coal importations are about \$1,500,000 below the figures of last year.

Volume of Exports

On the export side there is a decrease of over \$53,000,000 in agricultural products. The less important classes, products of the forests and the fisheries, show a slight net decrease as compared with 1904.

The articles showing the largest increases in exportations during the eleven months of 1905 for which details are available are: Corn, an increase of \$16,000,000, as compared with the corresponding period of 1904; copper manufactures, an increase of \$25,000,000, about one-third being in exports to China, where large amounts of copper are in demand for coinage purposes; cotton manufacturers, an increase of twenty-two millions, principally in exports of cotton cloths to China; raw cotton, an increase of nine millions (during the twelve months); iron and steel manufactures, an increase of twenty-three millions; hops, two and one-third millions; leather and manufactures thereof, three millions; oil cake and meal, four millions; oils, mineral and vegetable, five millions; rice, two millions; spirits, wines, and malt liquors, an increase of a half million dollars; and wood manufactures, an increase of less than a half million dollars.

Much Less Wheat

The principal articles showing decreased exports are wheat, a reduction of \$32,000,000 (twelve month's figures,) wheat flour, \$28,000,000 (twelve month's figures;) fruits and nuts, five millions; provisions, five millions (twelve month's figures;) and unmanufactured wood, a decrease of six and one-half millions. The reduction in exports of wheat and wheat flour was due in part to the inadequacy of the domestic crop to furnish any considerable surplus over the home requirements and in part to unusually large crops in foreign wheat-producing countries. Exports from the United States of wheat, during the fiscal year just ended, have been even lower than during the year before. In the two foremost European grain markets, the British and the German, the leading position has been taken by wheat of Russian and Argentine origin, wheat imports from the United States showing unusually low figures for the period under consideration.

Clever of Her

"My dear," said young Mr. Marage, "what is this dessert, anyway?" "It is called surprise pudding," replied the dear young thing. "I tried to make bread, but it wouldn't rise for me, so I just made a nice wine sauce for it and turned it into dessert."

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The Thanksgiving Day Address delivered by Mr. Bryan at the banquet given by the American Society of London, Nov. 26, 1903, is printed in full. The letters from Cuba, written by Mr. Bryan, are reproduced in this volume. The address entitled "Patriotism" delivered by Mr. Bryan at the banquet given by the Cuban veterans to Governor General Wood is herein reproduced.

Mr. Bryan's articles describing his first visit to Mexico also appears in "Under Other Flags." An article written by Mr. Bryan describing his second visit to Mexico is another feature of this volume.

"A Conquering Nation" is the title of a lecture delivered by Mr. Bryan at a number of chautauquas, and that lecture appears in full in "Under Other Flags." Other articles are as follows: "The Attractions of Farming;" an address entitled "Peace," which address was delivered by Mr. Bryan before the Holland Society in New York City, in January, 1904; Mr. Bryan's response to the committee appointed to notify him of his nomination to the presidency, and which response was entitled "Imperialism," and was delivered at Indianapolis, August 8, 1900; Mr. Bryan's speech at the St. Louis Convention in seconding Senator Cockrell's nomination, which speech was entitled "I Have Kept the Faith."

An extract from a speech delivered by Mr. Bryan in Denver, January 17, 1899, which speech was entitled "Naboth's Vineyard," also appears in this volume.

All of Mr. Bryan's most popular lectures appear in "Under Other Flags." One of these lectures is entitled "Democracy's Appeal to Culture," and was delivered before the Alumni Association of Syracuse University, in New York City, January 27, 1905. Another is the well known lecture entitled "The Value of an Ideal."

"Under Other Flags" is well printed on good paper, and substantially bound. The sale of this volume has been very gratifying.

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