

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE.

Department of Industries and Commerce,

Wellington, 9th August, 1909.

SIR,—

I have the honour to submit herewith the departmental report for the year ending 31st March, 1909.

I have, &c.,

C. R. C. ROBIESON,

Acting for Secretary.

The Hon. T. Mackenzie, Minister of Industries and Commerce.

The financial depression so universally experienced during 1907 and 1908 has, I regret to state, had a marked effect on the export trade of this Dominion during the past year, and, although a recovery set in during the last three months of the year, it was not sufficient to entirely wipe out the heavy set-back experienced during the previous nine months. The total value of exports for the year ending 31st March, 1909, was £17,011,801, compared with £17,869,354 for the year ending 31st March, 1908, showing a decrease of £857,553.

Those exports which have chiefly suffered owing to the depressed markets are,—

						£
*Wool	..	..	..	..	21,722,220 lb.	525,575
Mutton	..	..	..	..	10,131 cwt.	36,244
Skins	..	..	..	..	159,131	195,365
Hemp	..	..	..	..	11,275 tons	376,233
Gold	..	..	..	..	34,649 oz.	139,119
Kauri-gum	..	..	..	..	580 tons	66,664

* Increased output, but decrease in value.

On the other hand, increases have taken place in the case of butter, cheese, beef, lamb, oats, and timber.

In order to show how universal has been the depression in trade, I append some figures which I have collected and tabulated on a percentage basis. It will be noticed that nearly all countries of any importance were affected, irrespective of their geographical position, or whether they were producers of raw materials or vendors of manufactured goods.

Country.	1907.	1908.	Decrease.	Percentage of Decrease.
	£	£	£	
United States	691,360,000	592,733,000	98,627,000	14·2
Egypt	55,543,000	47,625,000	7,918,000	14·2
Canada	124,117,000	108,934,000	15,183,000	12·2
Japan	94,085,000	82,758,000	11,327,000	12·0
India (British)	209,282,000	188,374,000	20,908,000	9·9
New Zealand	37,371,818	33,788,778	3,583,040	9·5
United Kingdom	979,901,000	890,695,000	89,206,000	9·1
Australia	121,626,000	111,221,000	10,405,000	8·5
Switzerland	113,615,000	105,034,000	8,581,000	7·5
South Africa (British)	75,079,000	70,473,000	4,606,000	6·1
Belgium	249,740,000	238,317,000	11,423,000	4·5
France	472,762,000	454,512,000	18,250,000	3·8
Germany	766,884,000	741,078,000	25,806,000	3·3
Austria-Hungary	206,636,000	202,392,000	4,244,000	2·0

The trade of the United Kingdom suffered to the extent of 9·1 per cent. and that of New Zealand 9·5 per cent. In this connection it is instructive to note that, as the great bulk of our trade is with the United Kingdom, any set-back in trade received by the Motherland must inevitably react on the trade of this Dominion.

It is unfortunate that the Dominion is still in the position, metaphorically speaking, of having too great a proportion of its eggs in one basket—viz., the market of the United Kingdom.