

Exports to all British countries during 1931 declined by £8,200,160, while exports to foreign countries declined by £1,587,504.

In 1931 exports to British countries represented 93·0 per cent. of total exports, as compared with 90·9 per cent. in 1930, while exports to foreign countries represented 7·0 per cent. in 1931 in comparison with 9·1 per cent. in 1930.

The percentages of total exports shipped to each of the principal countries trading with the Dominion during the past four calendar years are shown in the following table:—

				1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
				Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
United Kingdom	..	..	..	72·09	73·69	80·17	88·02
United States	..	..	..	7·58	6·57	4·71	2·62
Australia	..	..	..	6·05	4·21	3·45	3·33
Canada	..	..	..	4·39	6·03	5·65	0·73
France	..	..	..	3·20	3·18	1·15	1·19
Germany	..	..	..	2·30	2·20	0·89	0·88
Belgium	..	..	..	0·54	0·45	0·44	0·42
Japan	..	..	..	1·17	0·77	0·35	0·76

The most important feature in connection with the foregoing table is the exceptionally high proportion of our total export trade which was conducted with the United Kingdom in 1931, the percentage rising from 80·17 per cent. in the previous year to 88·02 per cent. The proportion of our exports which Canada took fell from 5·65 per cent. in 1930 to 0·73 per cent. in 1931, this being due mainly to the restrictions placed on the importation of our butter into that country, this commodity previously being our largest single item of export thither.

IMPORTS.

As stated earlier in this review, imports for 1931 aggregated £24,812,958, as compared with £43,025,914 for 1930. The table which follows shows the quantities and values of the principal items imported during those two years.

Item.				1931.		1930.	
				Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
					£		£
Wheat	..	..	Centals	113,008	33,508	168,082	77,253
Sugar	..	..	Cwt.	1,587,470	574,810	1,772,885	758,263
Tea	..	..	lb.	12,115,273	650,550	10,178,238	710,400
Whisky	..	..	Gal.	255,499	259,328	432,809	457,015
Cigarettes	..	..	lb.	525,074	187,755	874,487	395,285
Tobacco	..	..	..	3,095,519	474,849	3,919,989	734,406
Apparel	..	..	..	..	1,679,202	..	2,897,344
Boots and shoes	..	..	Doz. prs.	152,555	445,579	247,964	928,685
Carpets and floor-coverings	..	..	..	..	237,831	..	578,812
Drapery, &c.	..	..	..	..	296,216	..	501,519
Cotton piece-goods	..	..	..	..	1,161,164	..	1,872,613
Silk piece-goods	..	..	..	..	610,388	..	1,020,721
Woollen piece-goods	..	..	..	..	401,513	..	622,256
Petrol and kerosene	..	..	Gal.	65,545,249	1,377,840	74,621,738	2,264,754
Coal	..	..	Tons	179,060	194,137	157,943	200,419
Hardware	..	..	..	..	386,106	..	867,507
Electrical equipment	..	..	..	..	1,308,877	..	2,180,656
Timber	..	..	..	..	222,576	..	917,513
Motor-vehicles	..	..	No.	4,014	578,039	17,363	2,478,140
Motor-tires	..	..	..	..	518,922	..	809,763
Other imports	..	..	..	..	13,213,768	..	21,752,590
Total imports	..	..	..	..	24,812,958	..	43,025,914

Decreases in values of importations of the various items during 1931 as compared with 1930 were recorded in all cases.