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PART LXXXIX.

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## THE EXTERNAL COMMERCE OF IRELAND.

(Outgoing Address by ARTHUR WARREN SAMUELS, K.C.,  
President 1906-1908).

[Read 30th November, 1908.]

TO-NIGHT I vacate the post of President of the Social and Statistical Society of Ireland in favour of the Right Hon. the Attorney-General, who on many occasions has contributed papers of high value to our Journal, and has ever been most active in the promotion of the objects of our Association. To occupy this chair has always been a high honour. It has also always been a difficult task to discharge its duties adequately; but the task has, in my case, been peculiarly difficult, as my predecessor was so eminent a President, Sir Robert Matheson, the Registrar-General; and if I now hand over this high office to the keeping of a successor so eminent as the Attorney-General, with the tradition of responsibilities at all preserved during my term, I owe it to the constant help of your Council and your officers, and the assistance and support of all your members.

We have had to mourn during the last two years the loss of three of the old members of this Society, who built up its reputation in the past, when they and it were young in years. Lord Hemphill, Sir Thomas Moffett, and John Kells Ingram, Vice-Provost of Trinity, have passed away—all men of high distinction, who served their country and their generation well. We mourn again to-night a more recent loss—a younger member—Cæsar Litton Falkiner, who, too, kept alive that high reputation handed down from the past to the members of this Society, and who, too, served his country and his generation well. It is not without deep pathos that we now recall that evening, a few meetings back, when he read before the Society a striking monograph upon Dr. Ingram and his work. Who could then have thought that the reader was so soon, so suddenly, so tragically to leave a vacancy in the ranks of our members?

On the 12th September, 1906, was issued for the first time a Report on the Trade in Imports and Exports at Irish Ports. It has been followed in 1907 and 1908 by similar Reports, and we have at length materials in an authoritative form for estimating the extent of the external trade of Ireland. The value of the information contained in these Reports cannot be overstated. Their intrinsic value is, however, greatly enhanced by their admirable arrangement, by their method of segregation, by the comparative statements of imports and exports from year to year, and by the instructive contrasting of Irish trade statistics with those not only of the whole United Kingdom, but also of the Colonies, of the United States, and of nearly every European country. Diagrams, again, of extreme practical value exhibit at a glance the monthly fluctuations of the imports and exports of some of the chief commodities of Irish merchandise. The highest tribute of appreciation is due from this Statistical Society to the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for the admirable manner in which this important branch of its duties has been discharged; and still more is peculiar honour due to the late Dr. Coyne, who laid the foundation of this work, and to his successor as Superintendent of the Statistics and Intelligence Branch of the Department, Mr. W. G. S. Adams, and to his most able and efficient staff, for the way in which, through difficulties almost insuperable and complexities incalculable, they have carried it to completion.

Call to mind the fact that since 1825 there has been no record kept of Irish imports and exports; that when the work was begun there were many ports where no returns of exports or imports were procurable; that there were no common terms of weight, no system of valuation of goods, and no settled classification; that the details had to be obtained from voluntary sources, from information courteously afforded by port and harbour authorities, by shipping and railway companies, and by individual importers and exporters, as well as by the Boards of Customs and Board of Trade; and then but a very faint idea can be gained of the enormous difficulty of the task so energetically undertaken and so perfectly performed by the Statistical Bureau.

The last Report, issued on 26th May, 1908, by the Department, brings down the enquiries and revises the figures of the former reports to the 31st December, 1906, and analyses the extent and character of our external trade—as far as it can be ascertained upon existing data. It is important, however, to remember that while the trade which passes directly between Ireland and Colonial and Foreign countries is known and presented annually in the Board of Customs Statement of the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom, there is at present no means of accurately

distinguishing from the colonial and foreign trade of Great Britain, the indirect colonial and foreign trade of Ireland which passes to and from Irish ports through those of Great Britain, especially Liverpool and London. The consequence is that the total trade of Ireland with countries outside Great Britain cannot be at present definitely ascertained; but, after careful examination, it is estimated that not more than one-fifth of Irish exports is sent to colonial and foreign countries, the other four-fifths remaining in Great Britain; and while it is much more difficult to ascertain what proportion of imports into Ireland are of colonial or foreign origin, it seems probable that at least one-third are articles of such origin, the remaining two-thirds being the produce of Great Britain.\*

It is of great importance that a change should be made in the form in which the trade accounts of the United Kingdom are published. The countries from which imports are received and to which exports are sent should be shown. A Committee of the Board of Trade, presided over by Sir Robert Giffen, has, in a report dated 19th October, 1908, recommended that legislative power should be sought to compel the place of the first consignment, and not merely of shipment, of imports and of the final destination of exports to be declared. Care should be taken by our Irish representatives that when such legislation takes place the Irish imports and exports consigned through Great Britain shall be distinguished from the British imports and exports. The recommendations of the Committee of the Board of Trade do not propose that this should be done, but it is most important for Irish purposes that the Irish trade should for the future be segregated in the returns, and the Irish public and representatives should insist that it shall be done.

With a view to the discussion of the effects of tariff changes, and to a possible recasting of the existing fiscal system, it is essential that the information relating to the actual source and destination of the various articles of Irish commerce should be as definite as possible. The interests of Ireland may be seriously imperilled if data are not in existence which can be relied on in estimating the probable effect of any proposed new tariffs upon Irish trade. By far the greatest part of our commerce is, and always will be, with Great Britain; and care must be taken that this shall be developed and not diminished. But Ireland's export trade to the colonies and foreign countries is very considerable—it probably exceeds £11,000,000 in the year at present; and the Irish import trade from countries other than Great Britain approaches £19,000,000 per annum.

\* Report on Irish Trade, 1906. [1908, Cd. 4126, pg. xxiv.]

Some idea of the national importance of sound information on this subject may be gathered from past deficiencies and our past experiences.

One of the data relied upon in the 7th Article of the Act of Union for ascertaining the relative ability of each country to contribute to the Imperial expenditure, in contemplation of a revision of the proportions then fixed, was "The *real* value of the exports and imports of the respective countries upon an average of the three years next preceding the period of revision." In the "Great Account,"\* handed in by Mr. Chisholm, Chief Clerk of the Exchequer, to the Select Committee on Taxation in Ireland, in 1864, it is stated that "the average value of the exports and imports of each country quoted by Lord Castlereagh in 1800, during the Union debates, appears to have been specially computed for the occasion; for although, since 1798, when the imposition of the "Convoy duty," being an *ad valorem* tax laid on exports, exporters were compelled to declare in every case the value of articles they exported, and the total amount was annually returned to Parliament, yet, as regards imports, no authentic information was obtained of their real value till 1854, from which period the computation of their real value was made, and the total amount annually returned to Parliament. It was a subject of complaint during the Union debates that no document showing the data upon which the estimate of the relative ability of the two countries was based was published.† When subsequently the consolidation of the Exchequers took place, in A.D. 1817, the first of the data required by the Act of Union for ascertaining the financial position of England and Ireland were again non-existent. No estimate of the *real* value of the imports had ever been made, and there was no possibility of ascertaining what was the average of their *real* value for the three years immediately preceding this momentous constitutional change in the relations of the United Kingdom."

It is necessary when any comparison of the early trade statistics of last century is attempted with those of the present time to recollect that the "official values" as they are given in the old Parliamentary returns do not bear any assignable relation to the actual value of the commodities imported or exported. The "official values" were arbitrary values fixed by the book of rates in 1696, and their persistence in the Blue Books of a century and a half is one of the most edifying examples of the prehensile powers of official red-tape.

The mode in which "*real* value" was ascertained was stated in the Customs Report of 1857 ‡ to be as follows—"In

\* See Appendix 9 to Select Committee Report, page 151.

† See Irish Parliamentary Debates, 6th June, 1800.

‡ First Report on Customs, 1857. Appendix P., page 119.

the case of the more numerous and considerable articles which are entered at the Custom House by quantity alone, the value exhibited in the statistical record is obtained by a process of computation which combines the quantity with the average price of the several commodities—The average price is supplied to the Inspector-General of Exports and Imports, in part by some of the leading merchants and brokers in the City of London, and in part by three gentlemen who have peculiar facilities for watching the markets, and who collect such information from the ports of London, Liverpool, and Hull.” The real value of the exports and imports was thus ascertained from the year 1854; but until the issue in September, 1906, of the first Report of the Trade in Imports and Exports at Irish Ports for the year ending 31st December, 1904, there were no official returns of the merchandise imported or exported between the two countries since 1825 under the regulations then established for the Cross-Channel trade, and after that year only the direct Irish imports and exports from and to foreign ports and British possessions abroad are included in the annual trade and navigation reports. As, therefore, no official returns had been made of the merchandise imported into and exported from Ireland indirectly through the ports of Great Britain, any such calculation or inference as was contemplated by the Act of Union from the recorded value of the imports and exports of Ireland would (as stated by Mr. Chisholm) formerly be wholly fallacious.\*

Previous to 1823 there had been separate Customs Boards for England, Scotland, and Ireland; but by the Statute 4, Geo. IV., c. 23, the separate boards were abolished; and after the amalgamation of these boards no statistics were kept showing the trade between Great Britain and Ireland—only the cash collection in each country was shown—and it was not until 1890 that any attempt was made to ascertain the trade relations between the two countries, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave directions to the heads of the Excise and Customs Departments to collect information upon the subject with reference to the proposed enquiry into the financial relations between Great Britain and Ireland.†

When, however, the Financial Relations Commission came to make their report, they found that even then no reliable figures existed which would enable them to base any conclusion upon what Lord Castlereagh had described as being, after the income tax, “the criterion next in order—the joint

\* Report of Select Committee on Taxation of Ireland, 1864. Appendix 9, page 152.

† See Evidence of Sir H. H. Murray, Chairman of the Board of Customs, Financial Relations Report, Vol. I. Evid., pages 1-2, 1894, c. 7720, 1.

result of commerce and consumption, which might be satisfactorily ascertained by a review of the exports and imports of the two countries, together with the quantities and value of the chief articles of their consumption." Sir R. Giffen had formed, indeed, a very guarded estimate for the Financial Relations Commission in 1894, based upon the principal articles of Irish export and import trade, and making an allowance for "minor articles." \* He termed this "a kind of calculation in the absence of anything better," and arrived at an estimate that the total exports in 1894 from Ireland to Great Britain and all other countries amounted to 25½ millions and the imports to about 20 millions, making a total of about 45½ millions. This estimate varies greatly from the figures for 1906, when, as now calculated, Irish imports amounted to £56,365,299, and the exports to £55,598,597, making a total of £111,963,896. The total export and import trade of the United Kingdom, which amounted to £682,130,677 in 1894, had, in the meantime, risen in 1906 to £1,063,566,318.†

In comparing, however, the progress of Great Britain and Ireland, we must bear in mind (as Mr. Childers pointed out) that even if it were possible to ascertain exactly the ratio which the exports and imports of Ireland bear to those of Great Britain, no satisfactory conclusion could be founded thereon as to the relative taxable resources of the two countries. The amount of the imports and exports of a country denotes rather the character of its industry than the amount of its wealth. The test, as he says, of comparative exports and imports would, for instance, by no means gauge correctly the relative resources of two countries differing so much in circumstances as England and France. A self-contained country, self-sufficient, producing from its own soil most of its food and clothing, will have a much smaller commerce than a country relying on shipping, finance, and manufacturing industry, and importing most of its food and raw materials from abroad, and exporting manufactured goods in exchange. Yet the first country might be easily as wealthy or wealthier than the latter. High exports may also mean that there is an "economic drain," and be actually a sign of impoverishment. By an "economic drain" is meant wealth leaving a country, not in exchange for commodities required, but to pay interest on loans to mortgagees—foreign bondholders or absentee shareholders in manufacturing concerns. In these cases money has been in the first instance advanced; but the total exports representing the interest on the loans will after some time exceed the imports, which represent the original loan, and may then constitute an

\* Vol. II. Evid., pages 3, 31, 174.

† See Whittaker's Almanac, 1908, page 239.

economic drain, while the object for which the loan was originally obtained may not have permanently increased the resources of the borrowing country. Again, exports to pay absentee landowners cause an economic drain.

On the other hand, high imports at any given time may mean that a country is at that time receiving large loans of money from abroad, which may, by reason of the way they are expended and the interest which has to be paid upon them, eventually diminish and not increase the wealth and taxable resources of the borrowing country, although they will increase those of the lending country.

These are some of the reasons Mr. Childers submitted for the contention that "even if the exports and imports of Ireland could be exactly ascertained, the result would not afford a leading or even, perhaps, a fairly good test of her relative resources."\* The fact that many millions have been advanced, and millions are still being advanced, for land purchase in Ireland, and that the interest on these vast sums has to be paid in England, and is of the nature of an absentee rental, may possibly have had a considerable effect in increasing the figures of the exports and imports of Ireland. The matter is one which presents some difficult and interesting problems for consideration in the study of international trade relations.†

The Irish Export and Import Trade Reports for 1905 and 1906 also contain other important observations upon the necessity of considering the various conditions of different countries, before we form conclusions as to their comparative wealth, drawn from the statistics of their export and import

\* Financial Relations Report, Vol. II., 167-168.

† ANNUITIES AND REDEMPTION MONEYS RECEIVED BY THE IRISH LAND COMMISSION AND PAID OVER IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING YEARS:—

| Year ended       | Acts<br>1881 &<br>1885. | Acts<br>1891-6 | Act of<br>1903. | Totals.   |
|------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 31st March, 1904 | £ 350,065               | £ 582,850      | —               | £ 932,915 |
| „ 1905           | 358,736                 | 614,017        | 44,806          | 1,017,559 |
| „ 1906           | 350,377                 | 693,117        | 197,808         | 1,241,302 |
| „ 1907           | 371,781                 | 609,049        | 377,074         | 1,357,904 |
| „ 1908           | 353,558                 | 550,200        | 574,295         | 1,478,053 |

trade. In the Irish Trade Reports, 1905 and 1906,\* a most interesting statement is given of the value per head of the population of the foreign trade of the whole United Kingdom, of some of our Colonies, and of European countries; of the United States, and of Ireland. It shows the great contrast which exists between the extent of the foreign trade of self-contained states with wide areas, and varied and climatic conditions, and the trade of states differently circumstanced. The foreign trade in proportion to the total production of a self-contained country is generally small. In 1906 the export and import trade of Austria-Hungary was only £3 19s. 2d. per head of the population. The United States, with an immense internal trade, had a foreign trade per head of only £8 6s. 4d.; Germany, with its great agriculture and home industries, £11 10s. 6d.; and France £11 2s. per head. While the United Kingdom shows a return of £20 11s. 7d., and Ireland of £24 9s. 10d. per head.

Small countries with a good sea-board have generally a large foreign trade. Denmark's export and import trade amounts to £20 9s. 2d. per head; that of Belgium to £34 4s. 1d.; and that of Holland to £67 11s. 1d. It might be supposed that much of the Dutch and Belgian trade represents goods landed in the ports of Antwerp, Rotterdam, and Amsterdam, and transhipped up the Rhine and Meuse, or sent by rail and canal to the interior of Europe; but the trade is classified in the returns as "Imports for Home Consumption and Exports of Domestic Produce,"† and the statistics show that Holland has a foreign trade which, taken per head of the population, is far greater than that of any other country in the world. To quote from the Irish Report for 1905:—"The figures show plainly that certain countries have by nature a much larger foreign trade per head of the population than others. In general the wider the extent and the more varied the natural resources and the conditions of climate of a country, the less likely is its foreign trade to be large. Such a state is to a large extent self-sufficient, and the different parts reciprocate and supply their mutual wants. Thus it is that the United States of America, with, in all probability, the highest total production per head of population, has a very small foreign trade. Thus also Germany, with its great capacity for production, alike agricultural and industrial, has a comparatively limited foreign trade per head of population. In such cases increase or decrease of foreign trade is a very subordinate factor in the industrial progress of the country; and the growth in wealth depends

\* 1907, Cd. 3631, pg. xx. 1908, Cd. 4126. pg. xxv.

† 1905, Cd. pg. xx.



on the internal development of the country and the internal trade, and not to any large extent on the exchange of commodities with other nations. On the other hand, countries which are small in size and have good maritime communication have, in general, a large foreign trade. In the cases of countries having a large external trade, import and export statistics are of great practical commercial importance. They show the character of the trade. They also furnish evidence of the producing and purchasing power of the country; but in itself the increase of imports and exports is not an adequate proof of increased production or consumption. To determine this we should have also data of internal production and consumption. It is probable that expansion in foreign trade indicates an increased total production; but it is possible that a nation with a foreign trade expanding less rapidly than that of another country may be making the greater advance in industrial prosperity. These considerations are relevant to the proper understanding of the Irish import and export figures. The statistics given in the Reports of the Trade in Imports and Exports at Irish Ports for 1904, 1905, and 1906 determine in an important sphere of trade the strength of demand and supply. But the wider inference with regard to National gain or loss require much more complete data than are yet available."\*

Until the publication of these three reports very few people had, I believe, any idea of the extent of the Irish import and export trade—that is to say, not only the trade with colonial and foreign countries, but the Cross-Channel trade between Great Britain and Ireland. The commerce of Ireland is threefold—(1) Direct to foreign countries; (2) Indirect to foreign countries through Great Britain; (3) Local, between Great Britain and Ireland.

The following are the figures :—

|         | Imports.   | Exports.   | Total.      |
|---------|------------|------------|-------------|
|         | £          | £          | £           |
| 1904 .. | 53,185,523 | 49,398,536 | 102,584,059 |
| 1905 .. | 54,793,183 | 51,174,318 | 105,967,501 |
| 1906 .. | 56,365,299 | 55,598,597 | 111,963,896 |

#### INCREASES.

|                |    |    |            |
|----------------|----|----|------------|
| 1905 over 1904 | .. | .. | £3,383,442 |
| 1906 over 1905 | .. | .. | £5,996,395 |
| 1906 over 1904 | .. | .. | £9,379,837 |

\* Report, 1905 [Cd. 3631], page XXI.

These figures show an immense increase within three years. The increase has been both in imports and exports ; but the increase of exports has been considerably greater than in imports. The imports of 1906 exceeded those of 1904 by £3,179,776, and the exports of 1906 exceeded those of 1904 by £6,200,061. Prices were rising through this period ; but, allowing for such rise, there has been also a very great increase in the actual volume of trade. It is necessary to make a deduction from the gross figures for articles re-exported ; but this is a small proportion of the total Irish trade, and is chiefly represented by raw cotton re-exported from Belfast. Making, however, every deduction that can be estimated, as far as existing information permits, it may be taken that the total net Irish export and import trade for 1906 was approximately £107,464,000—say one hundred and seven millions and a half.

It is possible, in respect of exports, to refer to some figures which enable us to contrast the position with that of ninety years ago. In 1815, at the close of the great Napoleonic War, the *real* value of Irish exports was estimated at £11,228,772\*. In 1906 they are valued at £55,598,597. Prices have, of course, risen, means of communication have become vastly more certain, more rapid, and more extensive ; but, making every allowance for these factors, it is evident that there has been a great development in the export trade of the country. Taking the combined export and import trade of Ireland as £112,000,000 gross for 1906, it equals that of the total export trade of British and Irish produce (merchandise only) from the United Kingdom to British possessions in 1905, which appears from the Annual Statement of Trade to have been about £112,000,000.† It also exceeds by one million the average of the total import trade of Merchandise into the United Kingdom from all the British possessions for the four years 1900-1904, which amounted to £111,000,000.‡

The total export trade of Ireland for 1906 was nearly, in round numbers, £55,600,000 ; the total export trade of the produce of the United Kingdom to all British possessions was, for 1905, £112,000,000. Thus the Irish export trade—mainly to Great Britain—was, in 1906, almost half the total export trade of the produce of Great Britain and Ireland to all the colonies and dependencies of the Empire ; while the import trade of Ireland, measured at £56,365,000 for 1906, is considerably greater than half the average of the import trade from our colonies and dependencies into the United Kingdom during the four years from 1900-1904.

\*Report Select Committee on Taxation of Ireland, 1864. Ap. 9, pg. 152.

†1906, Cd. 1761. "Annual Statement of Trade." *Constitutional Year Book*, 1908. pp. 504-505.

It is interesting to contrast the extent of the Irish export and import trade with that of the United Kingdom with some of the chief nations of the world. The results will appear remarkable. We have been in the habit of hearing of the great British trade with France, with Germany, with Russia, with Holland, with Belgium, with our Colonies; but we have heard very little of the trade of Great Britain with Ireland, and, hearing but little, Irish trade has been looked upon too often as *omne ignotum pro insignifico*. It is desirable to see how the matter stands.

A.D. 1906.—TRADE IN THE PRODUCE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH EUROPEAN STATES.

|            | * British Exports to | Imports from | Total      |
|------------|----------------------|--------------|------------|
|            | £                    | £            | £          |
| France ..  | 20,000,000           | 54,000,000   | 74,000,000 |
| Germany .. | 32,000,000           | 38,000,000   | 70,000,000 |
| Holland .. | 11,000,000           | 37,000,000   | 48,000,000 |
| Belgium .. | 11,000,000           | 29,000,000   | 40,000,000 |
| Russia ..  | 9,000,000            | 30,000,000   | 39,000,000 |

A.D. 1906.—TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH CERTAIN BRITISH POSSESSIONS.†

|                             | Exports to | Imports from | Total      |
|-----------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|
|                             | £          | £            | £          |
| Cape of Good Hope and Natal | 16,000,000 | 6,000,000    | 22,000,000 |
| British North America       | 13,000,000 | 30,000,000   | 43,000,000 |
| Australia and New Zealand   | 27,000,000 | 45,000,000   | 72,000,000 |
| British India               | 45,000,000 | 38,000,000   | 83,000,000 |

\* Compiled from [Cd. 1761]. See *Constitutional Year Book*, 1908, page 506, Merchandise, exclusive of the value of ships; bullion and specie.

† Exclusive of value of new ships, *Constitutional Year Book*, 1908.

The trade with the United States for 1906 was represented by £28,000,000 exports of British produce from the United Kingdom, or, including foreign and colonial merchandise £53,250,000, and the enormously greater import trade of £131,000,000.

It would be of great importance to be in possession of figures which would enable a comparison to be made with accuracy between the import and export trade of Great Britain and Ireland, in the same way as these calculations are arrived at in showing the trade between the United Kingdom and foreign countries. But, as the Report on the Irish Trade for 1906 states, there is at present no means of distinguishing from the colonial and foreign trade of Great Britain the indirect colonial and foreign trade of Ireland which passes through the ports of Great Britain; consequently the total trade of Ireland with countries outside Great Britain cannot be at present ascertained. At the same time, it is estimated, from careful examination and enquiries which have been made by the Department, that not more than one-fifth of Irish exports goes to colonial and foreign countries, the other four-fifths remaining in Great Britain; while of the imports into Ireland probably one-third are colonial and foreign, and the remaining two-thirds British products. We will accordingly be, in all probability, not far astray in arriving at an estimate that the export trade of Ireland to the British home market amounts to about £45,000,000 or £46,000,000, while the British products imported into Ireland are value for about £38,000,000, making a total home trade between Great Britain and Ireland of £83,000,000 or £84,000,000, out of the total export and import trade of Ireland of £112,000,000 for the year 1906.

It appears then that, excluding the value of foreign and colonial goods re-exported from the United Kingdom, and leaving out of exports the value of ships, the trade of Ireland with Great Britain equals the trade of the United Kingdom, with the vast dominion of our Indian Empire; that it exceeds by probably £9,000,000 our trade with France; by £11,000,000 our trade with our colonies in the Australian seas; by £13,000,000 our trade with Germany; by £35,000,000 our trade with Holland; by £43,000,000 our trade with Belgium; by £40,000,000 our trade with British North America; and it exceeds by over £60,000,000 our trade with the Cape of Good Hope and Natal.

These results are startling; and whatever the actual economic gain in wealth may be to the inhabitants of Ireland from the amount of their external trade, the returns seem to me to go far to prove the great inherent capabilities of this island. We that live in and know it know that it is not half developed; that the education of its population, long

neglected, has been, until within the last few years, pre-eminently unsuited for agricultural or industrial advancement; that there has been ever prevalent great thriftlessness, widespread intemperance, and, for half a century, a constant depletion of the vigour of the population by emigration of the young men and women; that there has been for years, and there still is, storm and stress and unrest in political and social affairs, which has had the effect of scaring capital and shaking credit; that the effect of the prohibition of the once flourishing tobacco cultivation, the repeal of the Corn Laws, and the introduction of the tariff system of 1853 has been to throw down many Irish industries, to cripple others, and to impose a disproportionate burden of taxation on this country as compared with Great Britain. Events and policy have told hard against her industries and agriculture; while the rapidity and the great cheapness of sea carriage, and vast expansion and enormous and increasing capacity of ocean steamers, has almost annihilated the natural advantage she possesses of proximity to the great British market; and yet her trade in 1906, with an area of 31,759 square miles and a population of 4,380,000, is as valuable to Great Britain as the trade of the vast dominion of British India, with its area of 1,767,000 square miles and its population of 294,361,000.

The following table shows the value of the trade of British India with the United Kingdom for the years 1904, 1905, and 1906, and the export and import trade of Ireland during the same period:—

| *Trade of United Kingdom<br>with British India |                         |                 | Trade of Ireland with Great<br>Britain and Foreign Countries. |                 |                  |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|------------------|
| Imports<br>from<br>India.                      | Exports<br>to<br>India. | Total           | Imports.  | Exports.        | Total.           |
| £<br>36,472,000                                | £<br>41,544,000         | £<br>78,016,000 | £<br>53,185,000   | £<br>49,398,000 | £<br>102,583,000 |
| 36,062,000                                     | 44,361,000              | 80,423,000      | 54,793,000  | 51,174,000      | 105,967,000      |
| 37,833,000                                     | 46,410,000              | 84,243,000      | 56,365,000  | 55,598,000      | 111,963,000      |

If we adopt the estimate of the statisticians of the Irish Department, that four-fifths of the Irish export trade is for the British market, and that about two-thirds of its imports are British produce, we shall find that, taken year by year, during the period in which the Irish figures have been ascertainable, the value of trade between Great Britain and Ireland

\* *Thom's Almanac*, 1908, page 689. 1908, Cd. 4126, page VI.

is very much the same as that of the trade of India with both Great Britain and Ireland.

The annual-average value of the trade of the United Kingdom with India for the years 1900-1904 was (exclusive of ships) £64,000,000, viz., £34,000,000 exports to and £30,000,000 imports from India. There was a great increase of trade in 1905-1906, the average for these two years being £43,500,000 exports to and £37,000,000 imports from India, making £80,500,000.\* During the same three years the home trade between Great Britain and Ireland may be estimated as about £75,000,000 in 1904, £79,000,000 in 1905, and £83,000,000 in 1906. A considerable portion of the import trade from India to the United Kingdom comes to Ireland; for instance, the imports of tea into Ireland were value £1,083,058 in 1904, £886,532 in 1905, and £963,686 in 1906, the greater portion of which, we may surmise, was Indian produce. Again, we import coffee, rice, jute, and cotton and cotton goods, and other commodities.

The export trade from the United Kingdom must also include a very considerable amount of linen goods, and porter and whiskey, and other articles of Irish manufacture. If we take these factors into account, we may draw the conclusion that were the exact figures available they would show that the actual trade of Ireland with Great Britain considerably exceeds in value that of India with Great Britain. But passing from the region of deductions and comparisons to actualities and ascertained facts, the pre-eminent result of the laborious investigations of the Statistical and Intelligence Branch of the Department is the demonstration of the immense volume of Irish trade, of the supreme importance of the British market to the Irish producer, and the supreme importance of the Irish market to the English producer. The lesson to be learned from them is for Irishmen not to despair of their country, as they too often do, and not to be seeking outlets for their capital anywhere but at home; but to determine to work together for Ireland's social and material and commercial progress, and build up their home industries, knowing that they are possessors of a land of splendid inherent possibilities; and for Englishmen to bethink them whether this to them too unknown island, lying beside their shores, does not present better opportunities for development of industries and investment of capital than the far distant regions under alien domination in which they never seem to hesitate to exploit a railway, a ranche, a mine, a factory, or a municipality; and to consider also whether, when, notwithstanding their ruinous Irish commercial policy of the remote past, and their fiscal policy, both past and present, which have been shaped heedless

\* *Constitutional Year Book*, 1908, page 502.

of the effects they were destined to have in retarding the development of Irish agriculture and trade and industries, they should not now, when the value of this island emerges glittering from the mists of the unknown, welcome every opportunity and direct every effort to make prosperous beyond the conceptions of the past that sister land whose welfare is the welfare of England too.

The Reports of the Irish Trade Statistics for each year contain most novel and valuable information in reference to the various groups of our Imports and Exports under the classification of—I. Farm Produce, Food and Drink Stuffs; II. Raw Materials; and III. Manufactured Goods. As Mr. Adams points out in his first report for 1904, the information given is, through the difficulty in obtaining details, necessarily of a general character, especially in the case of many articles of manufacture. The really important thing for practical purposes is to get accurate particulars of the different classes of goods and their quantity and value imported and exported. If this information is to be procured further powers must be obtained to require the specifications to be declared of the quantity, weight, and value of goods. Accurate details are of great value. They assist the work of industrial development. They afford investors information regarding the flow of trade, and bring to public notice the character as well as the value of the import and export trade.

It would be impossible for me to consider at any length the interesting questions which arise in reference to various items of the classification. Readers of the reports will find comments of great practical value and great interest in each of them. I shall merely refer to a few outstanding features.

The enormous importance of the agricultural and pastoral industries and trade in food stuffs of Ireland can be gauged from the fact that £32,215,377 out of the £55,598,597 estimated as the total value in 1906 of the export trade of the country comes within this group. It may be taken too that the quantities and values given for this group represent much more closely the actual extent and value of the trade than is the case with manufactured articles. There can be no doubt that there is still room for far greater expansion of the Irish trade in this direction. The values of the imports and exports in the group were estimated as follows—\*

|      | £          |     | £          |     | £          |
|------|------------|-----|------------|-----|------------|
|      | Imports.   | ... | Exports.   | ... | Total.     |
| 1904 | 20,567,571 | ... | 30,488,483 | ... | 51,056,054 |
| 1905 | 20,756,296 | ... | 30,515,605 | ... | 51,271,901 |
| 1906 | 21,019,987 | ... | 32,215,377 | ... | 53,235,364 |

\* Cd. 4126, VIII.

The Irish export of all classes of live stock from Ireland to Great Britain is much greater than that of the rest of the world into the United Kingdom.

In 1906, 33,896 horses valued at £1,578,000 were exported from Ireland as against a total of 17,848 horses imported into the United Kingdom valued at £535,532. Thus the Irish horse export trade exceeded by one million and forty thousand pounds the value of the total foreign import of horses to the Three Kingdoms. The next largest importer was Russia with 11,535 horses valued at £123,886.

In 1906, 776,281 cattle were exported from Ireland as against 561,215 imported into the United Kingdom from all other countries. The value of the Irish cattle export was, however, somewhat smaller than the value of the total foreign import though greatly exceeding that of any single country. The Irish trade export consists largely of unfinished beasts. The total export was valued at £9,146,915 which included £5,101,924 worth of store cattle. The imports of all other countries was estimated at £9,732,180, the animals being ready for killing. The value of the Irish sheep export vastly exceeds the total import from abroad, the Irish being valued in 1906 at £1,257,326 and the foreign at £156,947. There are no foreign imports into the United Kingdom of swine. The Irish export of live pigs in 1906 was valued at £1,478,105, while the value of the Irish bacon trade both import and export is very great. The total imports of bacon and ham were valued at £2,191,036, and the exports at £2,392,122. "Altogether," "including the export of live pigs, the total export value of" "pigs and pig produce in 1906 amounted approximately" "to a sum of 4½ millions sterling." The value of the exports of pork, bacon and hams has been increasing, it was £2,286,121 in 1904, £2,349,019 in 1905, £2,502,870 in 1906.

The poultry and egg industry is also of immense value. The Irish export of poultry to Great Britain greatly exceeds that of any other country. The poultry export from Irish ports (apart from the large quantities sent by parcel post) was estimated in 1906 at £725,441 in value. The next in value was from America, £243,750; France sent £203,714 worth, Belgium £194,978, Russia £185,635. Denmark, which sends a great quantity of eggs, only sent £200 worth of poultry.

The value of this branch of Irish export trade is increasing rapidly as the following figures show:—

|      | Poultry. | Eggs.     | Feathers. |
|------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1904 | 645,358  | 2,205,526 | 36,888    |
| 1905 | 696,923  | 2,515,611 | 53,988    |
| 1906 | 725,441  | 2,727,410 | 59,064    |

An increase of over £80,000 in the value of poultry exports, of over £22,000 in that of feathers, and of nearly £522,000



in that of eggs in two years' time is not a bad testimony to the work and efforts of the Department of Agriculture and Industries and the Agricultural Organization Society, to whose constant efforts much of the improvement in the breeding of fowl, and grading and preparing of eggs for export, is due. But the total export value of over £3,500,000 taken as an ascertained figure must be greatly exceeded in reality as an immense amount of business is done in export of eggs and fowl through the parcel post, the value of which cannot be calculated. Since the Agricultural Department and the Irish Agricultural Organization Society have been at work in Ireland there has been a steady increase in the price of Irish eggs. In 1902 the average price was 6s. 7½d. per 120, but in 1903 an upward tendency began and prices have continuously risen—a result which is attributable not only to demand but also to improvement in breeding fowl, grading the eggs, and more careful marketing of supplies. In 1906 the average price of eggs was 8s. 0½d., while in Connaught prices as high as 14s. in 1905 and 15s. in 1906 per 120 were obtained.\* “*O si sic omnia.*” The trade report for 1906 points out that the imports of poultry and eggs into Ireland are small and practically the entire home demand is supplied by Irish farms and the export only represents the surplus production of the industry. Among the most important and useful features of the Statistical Reports issued by the Department are the diagrams annexed to the various publications. A comparison of the table of prices for 1906 given in the Return of Prices of Irish Agricultural Products† shows that the prices of Irish eggs which averaged 12s. in January fell to 6s. 8d. at Easter, and rose from July rapidly until Christmas when 13s. 10½d. was reached. The diagram annexed to the Export and Import Trade Report for 1908 shows that the exports from Ireland of eggs is heaviest in April and May when prices are lowest and begins in June to fall away until in December the lowest point is reached.

If Irish housewives could persuade the hens to do what the Danish hens seem to do, reserve their laying propensities somewhat more for the fall of the year the value of the Irish egg export would be vastly increased. The Danish import is smallest in February, March, April and May, it then gradually rises, then in July falls slightly to September and rises to its highest point in October but continues though falling until November to rise gradually again until Christmas, thus supplying the English market when prices are highest. The result is that Denmark's export to Great Britain of 3,824,000 great hundreds of eggs was valued at £1,700,000, while Ireland's export of 6,417,000 great hundreds was only valued at

\* 1908. Cd. 3775, pages 18, 69.

† 1907. Cd. 3775, diagrams XVI. and XVI,

£2,727,000. Sir Horace Plunkett to whom and to whose fellow-workers Ireland owes such a debt referred in his opening address on the 10th November, 1908 at Plunkett House to certain difficulties in changing the habits of Irish hens and hen-wives in the following terms:—

“Turning to a weak point in their movement, and in the analogous movements of some other countries where agricultural co-operation has existed much longer than it has here he said they were not getting ahead with their poultry societies. Statistics showed that in the year 1906 the export of eggs, poultry, and feathers amounted to over £3,500,000. He doubted whether there was any branch of agricultural industry the workers of which had suffered more from the lack of organisation. He had tried to discover why that particular branch of agricultural co-operation, which on paper seemed to have the greatest economic advantage, was in practice so difficult to make successful and he had come to a conclusion which he hardly dared to express. All co-operative undertakings depended for their success on the loyal and intelligent support of the members, and the member in the case of poultry societies was not a mere man, but an entirely superior being; and with all her other excellencies, he was afraid she was not a good co-operator.”

Possibly I may add another consideration from my own experience. One Michaelmas term many years ago when I was a student in Trinity College, I and a class-fellow, now an eminent Cambridge professor, walked up the side of the Dublin mountains to get fresh air and if possible, fresh eggs. We visited many cottages but got no eggs. At last an old lady produced four eggs and after we had paid a price which made serious inroads upon our finances for the four eggs, we asked her why she was not keeping her carriage if she could get such a price for her eggs. “Sure your honours,” she said “It is only an odd day the hens favour me this time of year.” “Give them red pepper, ma’am,” said my companion. “Oh, bedad, sir, I wouldn’t do that,” she said. “I’d never strive to come between God Almighty and the hens.”

Another most important Irish export is butter, and the continuous increase in its value and quantity is another proof of the practical value of the work of the Agricultural Organization Society in the establishment of creameries and improvement of methods of exportation and of the educational work of the Department of Agriculture. The exports were as follows:—

|      |     | Quantity |     | Value     |
|------|-----|----------|-----|-----------|
|      |     | Cwts.    |     | £         |
| 1904 | ... | 687,100  | ... | 3,195,015 |
| 1905 | ... | 685,238  | ..  | 3,357,666 |
| 1906 | ... | 715,344  | ..  | 3,576,720 |

The Danish import into the United Kingdom vastly exceeds in value the Irish export. In 1906 the Danish import was valued at £9,636,862. The Irish comes next valued at £3,385,120. Australia presses us close with £3,014,203. Then comes Russia with £2,918,124; France with £1,775,601; New Zealand with £1,626,977; and Sweden with £1,056,638. A new competitor has arisen in Siberia.

We very frequently hear the creamery system abused in Ireland as the cause of all sorts of woes. A confutation of such pessimism will be found however, in a study of the price returns for butter imported into the London market from all parts of the globe, as set out in the Journal published Oct., 1908, of the Department of Agriculture and Industries.\* In September, 1908, the prices for butter in the London market per cwt. were as follows:—

|                    |     |          |                   | per cwt. |      |
|--------------------|-----|----------|-------------------|----------|------|
|                    |     |          |                   | s.       | s.   |
| Ireland            | ..  | Creamery | ..                | 118      | —120 |
|                    |     |          | ..                | 106      | —112 |
|                    |     |          | ..                | 102      | —109 |
|                    |     |          | Farmer's Cork 1st | 103      | —104 |
|                    |     |          | 2nd               | 102      | —103 |
|                    |     | 3rd      |                   | 98       |      |
| Denmark and Sweden | ... | ...      | ...               | 122      | —124 |
| Finland            | ... | ...      | ...               | 122      | —124 |
| Russia and Siberia | ..  | ...      | ...               | 106      | —112 |
| Canada             | ... | ..       | ...               | 117      |      |
| New Zealand        | ... | ...      | ...               | 116      |      |
| Argentina          | ..  | ...      | ...               | 116      | —118 |

It thus appears how hopelessly outdistanced Ireland would be in competition with the rest of the world in the British market notwithstanding her splendid pastures were it not for the creamery system which has met with such opposition in various quarters. Fresh Cork butter which used to be regarded as the best butter in the world is now bringing in the London market—distant only a day's journey from Cork—a price lower by 7s. to 14s. a cwt. than the produce of Australia and New Zealand carried from the other side of the globe by voyages of months' duration and traversing the tropics. As for the Irish farmers' firkin first, seconds and thirds, they are hopelessly in the rear of every other importing country in the world. On the other hand the Irish creamery butter though outdistanced on an average 4s. a cwt. by the prices obtained by the Danish, Swedish and Finnish farmers for their produce comes at present next in value. It is now clear that but for the men who introduced the creamery system into Ireland and carried

\* Vol. IX., pages 180-183.

it to success the Irish butter export trade would have been annihilated within the last few years. Such success is we may hope, destined in no long time to lead to higher achievement and bring Irish butter to the position it ought to command as first in value of the world's produce.

With regard to the dead meat trade it is remarkable that Ireland exports very little beef and no mutton. Both in bulk and value there has been a decrease in the exports of dead beef. In 1904 the value of this export was £16,326; in 1905, £18,062, and in 1906, £15,964. This is a trivial amount compared with the enormous import of beef and mutton from foreign countries into the United Kingdom, which amounted in value to £18,879,000 in 1906, of which beef was valued at £11,107,000 and mutton at £7,771,000. The imports of beef into Ireland alone were valued in 1906 at £235,811 and of mutton at £116,505. Possibly we may sometime see a development in Ireland of an export trade in beef and mutton. If more cattle were finished in Ireland and slaughtered here there would be a considerable increase of employment in the country. An extension of the tanning and leather and horn and glue and other manufactures would probably take place.

There seems to be a very prevalent idea that Ireland has but two sets of manufactures—linen in the North and whiskey and stout in the South; but the fact is that there is a very considerable variety in our trade. The total value of the exports in whiskey and ale and stout, which are classified as food stuffs, does not amount to much more than one-fifth of the exports classified as "manufactured goods." In 1906 the value of the Irish whiskey, porter and ale export was £4,024,895; while that of other "manufactured goods" was estimated at £19,908,830. It is interesting to compare the value of our Irish export with the export value of our pigs and pig produce. The pig exceeds the total alcoholic export by nearly a quarter of a million in value. In 1906 the pig accounts for  $4\frac{1}{4}$  millions sterling of our export trade, while the export of whiskey, ale and stout together were value for £4,024,895. Of this amount, beer represented £56,844; porter £1,828,464; and whiskey £2,139,587; while our export of bacon and hams in 1906 was £2,452,000, or £313,000 more in value than the whiskey. It requires £248,685, the value of our exported soda water to be added to the whiskey to bring up the total value of the Irish drink export to that of the pig and his products.

The value of the shipbuilding industry for export in Belfast in 1906 was £2,900,000, thus exceeding by over £750,000 the total value of the whiskey export, while the value of the cotton goods and yarn £1,455,198, and woollen goods. £361,107, together equalled the value of the porter export—A very

remarkable and gratifying feature is the great and rising excess in the value of the Irish biscuit exports over the imports. The imports of biscuits in 1906 were valued at £70,823, while the export rose from £285,885 in 1904 to £306,709 in 1905, and to £332,389 in 1906. Almost the whole of this trade represents the product of a great Dublin industry, and four-fifths of it is for consumption in Great Britain while the remainder is sent abroad.

The Irish tobacco industry again is a very important and increasing one. The import value of manufactured tobacco was in 1906 £461,339, but the export value in the same year was £1,162,089 tobacco, and £31,964 of snuff. Tobacco pipes are nearly all exported from Dublin and the value of the export trade in this commodity increased from £30,000 in 1904 to £33,000 in 1905, and to £39,000 in 1906; but Ireland imports a very much larger quantity of tobacco pipes than she exports. In 1904 the value of this import was £100,000, it dropped to £73,120 in 1905, and rose again to £104,240 in 1906. The year 1906 must for some occult reason have been exceedingly fatal to tobacco pipes as next year it required an additional import of £31,000 worth of these articles to supply the wants of a population that had dropped in the meanwhile by 23,000 in number.

If we look into the list of textiles exported from Ireland we shall find that apart from the exports of linen and linen goods which were value for about £11,000,000 in 1906 there was a very large export of cotton goods and yarns value for £1,445,198; of ropes and cordage, value for £290,313; bags and bagging, £123,489; felt, an increasing export growing from £91,952 in 1904 to £93,471 in 1905, and to £103,721 in 1906. The export of carpets, a recently started Irish industry, grew in value from £39,712 to £50,286 to £103,721 during the same period.

Woollen goods were exported in 1906 to the value of £361,107; thread to the value of £466,486; and the value of the lace export increased from £85,000 in 1904 to £90,000 in 1905, and to £100,000 in 1906. There seems to be a valuable export trade in walking-sticks and shillelachs particularly from Waterford, but it is apparently subject to rapid and wide fluctuations. £16,722 worth of walking-sticks were exported in 1904, they dropped to £5,382 in 1905, and then rushed up to £34,722 in 1906. The import trade fell very short of the Irish export being in 1906 £14,000 less in value. I do not pretend to be able to explain with confidence the sudden export demand for these articles in 1906; but possibly the requirements of the general election in 1906 necessitated the supply to English constituencies of arguments upon the Irish question thoroughly racy of the soil.

Another remarkable feature of our Irish exports is the wild

blackberry trade. The particulars given of the blackberry and apple export are as follows :—

|      | Cwts. |     | Blackberries. |     | Apples & Pears. |
|------|-------|-----|---------------|-----|-----------------|
|      |       |     | £             |     | £               |
| 1904 | 4,627 | ... | 2,545         | ... | 10,597          |
| 1905 | 5,529 | ... | 2,212         | ... | 8,456           |
| 1906 | 7,506 | ... | 3,378         | ... | 9,464           |

The Journal of the Department published in October, 1908, gives further valuable and interesting details of this wild fruit trade. It appears that a considerable quantity of the pulped fruit exported consisted of blackberries, and the total export in 1906 fell little short of 500 tons, valued at about £4,500. The export has risen considerably since 1906, and is capable of much and profitable development.

It thus appears that the produce of the wild bramble is worth for our trade purposes one-third of the produce of our apple and pear orchards. This throws a not very creditable light on the gross neglect which has allowed the orchards which our forefathers planted to waste and rot to decay, as we can see they have done far and wide through the country—with the result that it is almost impossible to-day to buy an apple or pear of Irish produce in the Dublin market fit to put upon a table, and that the price of our inferior fruit is extravagantly higher than that of the orchards of Tasmania or California. Blackberries are chiefly exported from Londonderry and Dundalk. The trade is probably capable of much expansion. It is the only fresh fruit export from Ireland, with the exception of the small export of apples and pears, that is worth mentioning, the next in value being gooseberries, which were exported to the amount of £1,581 in 1906. A most practical leaflet has been issued by the Department dealing with the marketing of wild fruits—such as blackberries, bilberries or fraughauns, crabs, and sloes, and giving full particulars of the best methods of packing, consigning and shipping them to various markets.\*

“It is pretty to observe,” to use Pepy’s phrase, the attitude of the economists of the Manchester school in contrast with that of the Irish modern school in reference to the potato. In McCulloch’s notes to his edition of Adam Smith’s *Wealth of Nations* occurs this passage :—“However severe at the time, the diminution of the population caused by the famine and the subsequent emigration has greatly contributed to the improvement of Ireland. The only thing to be regretted is that the potato was not entirely destroyed ; so long as it con-

\* Leaflet No. 93. Department of Agriculture and Industries Journal, 1908, page 19.

tinues to be cultivated it will be a heavy drawback on the advancement of the Irish people.”\*

In the face of such a splendid example of doctrinaire prescience what is to be said for the fatuity of the mere Irish efforts of the Department of Agriculture and Industries and of the various societies and associations of the growers of to-day that are engaged in perfecting the seed—improving the production—enlarging the output and checking the blight of the potato, and increasing the commercial value by the extensive cultivation of an early crop for the English market? Merely this, that the import of potatoes from Ireland is the second largest of the kind into Great Britain, the quantity imported from France in 1906 being 1,659,868 cwts., while that recorded from Ireland was 1,586,660 cwts.; and though the value of the French and Channel Islands produce owing to their trade in the early crop exceeds that of the Irish, yet this McCulloch-termed “heavy drawback on the advancement of the Irish people” not only supplied practically the whole demand for home consumption, but represented the substantial surplus of an export value of £262,570 in 1904, £205,650 in 1905, and £226,102 in 1906.

Before concluding I shall refer to one more item—the trade in timber, the figures of which are as follows:—

|      |     | Imports   |     | Exports |
|------|-----|-----------|-----|---------|
|      |     | £         |     | £       |
| 1905 | ... | 4,351,571 | ... | 229,802 |
| 1906 | ... | 1,461,686 | ... | 572,279 |

These figures show a great increase both in import and export of timber, but the export from Ireland is nearly all in the rough condition, not 10 per cent. of it is sawn timber. On the other hand the imported is almost entirely sawn timber—boards and deals—vastly exceeding in proportion to the bulk the value of the Irish export of timber in the round condition. It is a deplorable thing that Ireland is being rapidly denuded of her timber, and the necessity of re-afforestation and proper care of our existing woods is urgent; but in the meantime it is, as the Report for 1906 says, “an un-economic condition of affairs” that the Irish timber export is of an unwrought character. It occurs to me that there might be a profitable field for enterprise were a company to construct a few itinerant motor saw-mills which could move from place to place and cut the timber into planks on the spot. Where woods are thinned or felled, many proprietors have told me that it does not pay to plant timber or even to sell windfalls, as they have no means of cutting the tree into planks, and the prices

\* Appendix, Note XIX., *ad fin.*

given for timber in the round are very small. I have myself recently seen in Germany a small motor waggon with a motor saw mounted on it being used for cutting timber into lengths. It worked with great rapidity and facility. Any person who has observed the Continental method of sawing the timber into planks and storing it where it is felled, and contrasted it with an Irish method of hauling it in the rough with enormous expenditure of labour and time to some railway station for export, must have been struck with the superiority of the Continental system, and it is well worth considering whether we could not make a better use of our home-grown timber and meet better and with greater profit the demands of the home market and the export trade.

A careful study of these valuable series of three years' Reports in the import and export trade of Ireland will, I am convinced, lead us to the conclusion that though the results hitherto ascertained show a volume of trade both in imports and exports that very few anticipated, there still remains a wide field for advance and expansion of our trade; that there are many directions in which a far more profitable return could be secured by different means and well-directed energies. It will also be seen that during this period there has been a steady increase in the volume and value of those products to which the particular efforts and care of the Royal Dublin Society, the Department of Agriculture and Industries and the Agricultural Organization Society have been chiefly directed. The output for exportation seems also to be increasing in the case of various articles of Irish manufacture which have not as yet gained the position of great industries, but seem to be winning their way through the revival of an industrial spirit and the efforts of those who have been endeavouring to create new markets for Irish products.

The statistics of the growth of the Irish Agricultural Organization Society point to a very great expansion of industrial energy in Ireland, and the Co-operative Trade federation of various kinds must have greatly increased the volume of production for Home consumption as well as for the Export trade. In 1896 there were 110 Agricultural Co-operative Societies in existence in Ireland with a membership of 2,334, and a turn over of £184,947. In 1906 the Societies had increased to 873, the membership to 85,050 and the turn over to £1,814,449.\*

The statistics of our external trade so admirably compiled and so lucidly illustrated by the Irish Department exhibit but part of the results of Irish trade. The external trade is

\* These figures have been courteously communicated to me by Mr. R. A. Anderson, the Secretary of the Irish Agricultural Organization Society; see also the statistics of the progress of these Societies annexed below.



only one side of national production. Before we can pronounce an opinion upon the actual or comparative progress of the country in wealth and prosperity, many other features must be taken into account. The proportions of the foreign trade of Ireland may be and probably are great as compared with the volume of exchange within Ireland itself of Irish products for Irish products. But that Ireland has a great and most important and increasing external trade there can be no doubt whatever, and it is a fact that should encourage Irishmen, too often prone to pessimism, to bethink them not of the ruined markets of one hundred and fifty years ago, but of the opening markets of to-day, and of the years to come—not to be looking on their country as an impoverished island amid a barren waste of waters, but as one of the most fertile and well-placed spots upon the globe with a future before it worth winning, and which will be won if we equip ourselves like men with energy and effort and unity; and (whatever our other rivalries may be) help on the work of her moral and material advancement. Our commerce and our agriculture—our industrialism—they are common ground for all of us in Ireland. The spirit which has long animated the Royal Dublin Society—which animated the Recess Committee—which has animated the Agricultural Department and the Agricultural Organization Society and the many County associations which have done so much for our cottage industries, which animates the nascent and effective efforts of the Industrial Development Association and its branches is growing and widening; it animates, too, multitudes of men and women who are not indeed members of such associations, but who belong to the fast increasing number of those who feel—whatever else may baffle and dishearten them in the outlook of to-day—that they are bound by a common tie and owe a willing allegiance to help Ireland on.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT SHOWING WORKING OF CO-OPERATIVE  
DAIRY SOCIETIES IN IRELAND. FURNISHING RETURNS  
FROM 1889 TO 1906 INCLUSIVE.

| Year. | Number of Creameries. | Number of Members. | Butter Produced. |                           |
|-------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
|       |                       |                    | Quantity.        | Amount realized by Sales. |
|       |                       |                    | lbs.             | £                         |
| 1889  | 1                     | 50                 | —                | 4,363                     |
| 1890  | 1                     | 50                 | —                | 8,500                     |
| 1891  | 17                    | 850                | —                | 50,382                    |
| 1892  | 25                    | 1,084              | 2,039,449        | 98,969                    |
| 1893  | 30                    | 1,250              | 2,935,211        | 140,780                   |
| 1894  | 30                    | 1,641              | 3,567,835        | 151,852                   |
| 1895  | 38                    | 2,334              | 4,368,401        | 184,947                   |
| 1896  | 58                    | 8,750              | 6,250,984        | 266,969                   |
| 1897  | 72                    | 15,136             | 7,381,393        | 322,344                   |
| 1898  | 100                   | 20,844             | 9,358,101        | 401,771                   |
| 1899  | 160                   | 22,750             | 11,974,046       | 572,963                   |
| 1900  | 171                   | 26,577             | 13,601,184       | 703,826                   |
| 1901  | 195                   | 33,064             | 15,345,942       | 717,902                   |
| 1902  | 247                   | 40,060             | 16,174,004       | 885,992                   |
| 1903  | 287                   | 44,273             | 19,127,985       | 964,066                   |
| 1904  | 217                   | 42,432             | 20,187,119       | 1,089,620                 |
| 1905  | 265                   | 42,786             | —                | 1,245,486                 |
| 1906  | 340                   | 45,201             | —                | 1,507,040                 |

[I annex an interesting letter which I have received from the Department of State in Washington, furnishing the statistics of the trade between Ireland and the United States. The information thus courteously supplied to me, throws light upon the total values of the Irish and American trade from 1865 to 1908. In future the statistics of this portion of our trade will show the trade in articles of export and import and not merely an estimate of total values.]

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON,

*November 28th, 1908.*

MR. ARTHUR W. SAMUELS,  
Dublin, Ireland.

SIR,

The Department is in receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, making certain inquiries in regard to the publications of this Government containing statistics of our trade with Ireland as distinguished from that of the United Kingdom in general.

The Department having consulted the Department of Commerce and Labor, which compiles and publishes the statistics in question, I have now to advise you as follows:—

Pages from the official reports of the Department of Commerce and Labor, showing the total values of the trade between the United States and Ireland by fiscal years from 1865 to 1908 inclusive, are enclosed herewith. You are correct in your understanding that the trade of the United States with Ireland by articles will be shown separately, commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1908.

In response to your inquiry as to whether the United States returns with respect of trade with Ireland relate only to direct imports and exports in the trade of this country with Ireland, or include merchandise shipped through English or Scotch ports, you are informed that the United States' statistical regulations with respect to imports and exports require that imports shall be credited to the country of invoice, and exports to the country of ultimate destination. So far as relates to imports, this regulation is strictly complied with, and, therefore, all articles invoiced in Ireland, although they may come indirectly to the United States, would be credited in the United States returns to Ireland. With respect to exports, great difficulty is experienced by this Government in inducing exporters to give the ultimate destination of the goods instead of the country where they are

landed for transshipment to the country of ultimate destination. The same difficulty is encountered by other governments in procuring statistics of exports to the countries of ultimate destination.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT BACON,

*Acting Secretary.*

IRELAND.

VALUE OF MERCHANDISE IMPORTED INTO AND EXPORTED  
FROM THE UNITED STATES, ETC.

| Year<br>ended<br>June<br>30— | Exports        |                |                | Imports        |                |                | Excess of<br>exports (+)<br>or<br>imports (—) |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|
|                              | Domestic       | Foreign        | Total          | Free           | Dutiable       | Total          |   |
|                              | <i>Dollars</i> | <i>Dollars</i> | <i>Dollars</i> | <i>Dollars</i> | <i>Dollars</i> | <i>Dollars</i> | <i>Dollars</i>                                |
| 1865                         | 4,453,868      | 1,863,089      | 6,316,957      | 14             | 60,620         | 60,634         | + 6,256,323                                   |
| 1866                         | 5,973,906      | 14,835         | 5,988,831      | 1,709          | 72,577         | 74,286         | + 5,914,545                                   |
| 1867                         | 7,117,854      | 289,235        | 7,407,089      | 2,775          | 74,823         | 77,598         | + 7,329,491                                   |
| 1868                         | 6,318,417      | —              | 6,318,417      | 2,434          | 84,674         | 87,108         | + 6,231,309                                   |
| 1869                         | 6,499,117      | 369            | 6,499,486      | 2,863          | 209,100        | 211,963        | + 6,287,523                                   |
| 1870                         | 8,486,172      | 97,359         | 8,583,531      | 1,584          | 245,491        | 247,075        | + 8,336,456                                   |
| 1871                         | 13,437,939     | 109,329        | 13,547,268     | 5,221          | 235,242        | 240,463        | + 13,306,805                                  |
| 1872                         | 22,509,046     | 70,677         | 22,580,323     | 12,844         | 474,586        | 487,430        | + 22,092,893                                  |
| 1873                         | 26,934,147     | 2,425          | 26,936,572     | 8,562          | 427,262        | 435,814        | + 26,500,758                                  |
| 1874                         | 43,569,655     | 204,230        | 43,773,885     | 27,037         | 1,003,192      | 1,030,229      | + 42,743,656                                  |
| 1875                         | 28,327,535     | 97,304         | 28,424,839     | 12,117         | 1,225,040      | 1,237,157      | + 27,187,682                                  |
| 1876                         | 38,200,163     | 234,432        | 38,434,645     | 7,502          | 522,224        | 529,726        | + 37,904,919                                  |
| 1877                         | 36,252,726     | 335,430        | 36,588,156     | 29,985         | 1,020,283      | 1,050,268      | + 35,537,888                                  |
| 1878                         | 61,201,791     | 324,217        | 61,526,008     | 44,788         | 1,723,791      | 1,768,579      | + 59,757,429                                  |
| 1879                         | 42,179,470     | 57,643         | 42,237,113     | 71,226         | 2,021,881      | 2,093,107      | + 40,138,006                                  |
| 1880                         | 68,661,336     | 117,814        | 68,779,150     | 147,517        | 4,153,538      | 4,301,055      | + 64,478,095                                  |
| 1881                         | 50,820,309     | 41,930         | 50,862,239     | 522,761        | 5,106,375      | 5,629,136      | + 45,233,153                                  |
| 1882                         | 44,111,411     | 74,732         | 44,186,143     | 409,603        | 7,829,299      | 8,238,902      | + 35,947,241                                  |
| 1883                         | 43,222,794     | 22,885         | 43,245,679     | 116,515        | 7,842,534      | 7,959,049      | + 35,286,630                                  |
| 1884                         | 28,706,889     | 2,060          | 28,708,949     | 202,859        | 8,049,968      | 8,252,827      | + 20,456,712                                  |
| 1885                         | 28,647,074     | 29,520         | 28,676,594     | 175,735        | 7,637,764      | 7,813,499      | + 20,863,204                                  |
| 1886                         | 18,560,074     | 1,220          | 18,561,294     | 252,538        | 8,325,351      | 8,577,889      | + 9,983,405                                   |
| 1887                         | 18,105,366     | 649            | 18,106,015     | 318,424        | 8,875,986      | 9,194,410      | + 8,911,605                                   |
| 1888                         | 19,005,735     | 11,816         | 19,017,551     | 257,605        | 9,062,771      | 9,320,376      | + 9,697,175                                   |
| 1889                         | 25,299,173     | 1,000          | 25,300,173     | 285,815        | 8,712,797      | 8,998,612      | + 16,301,561                                  |
| 1890                         | 22,781,697     | 1,518          | 22,783,215     | 285,973        | 8,899,180      | 9,185,153      | + 13,598,062                                  |
| 1891                         | 15,334,636     | —              | 15,334,636     | 261,026        | 8,441,928      | 8,702,954      | + 6,631,682                                   |
| 1892                         | 32,733,237     | 39,100         | 32,772,337     | 224,840        | 8,472,391      | 8,697,231      | + 24,075,106                                  |
| 1893                         | 22,828,358     | 5,306          | 22,833,664     | 188,569        | 9,732,288      | 9,920,857      | + 12,912,807                                  |
| 1894                         | 18,345,769     | —              | 18,345,769     | 85,802         | 6,584,152      | 6,669,954      | + 11,675,811                                  |
| 1895                         | 17,976,792     | 2,624          | 17,979,416     | 279,212        | 9,496,882      | 9,776,094      | + 8,203,322                                   |
| 1896                         | 18,056,127     | 2,507          | 18,058,634     | 209,465        | 9,272,139      | 9,481,604      | + 8,577,030                                   |
| 1897                         | 26,284,522     | 15,695         | 26,300,217     | 382,074        | 11,109,494     | 11,491,568     | + 14,808,649                                  |
| 1898                         | 44,047,549     | 5,067          | 44,052,616     | 160,913        | 7,187,067      | 7,347,980      | + 36,704,636                                  |
| 1899                         | 24,188,509     | 2,854          | 24,191,463     | 54,598         | 8,684,823      | 8,739,391      | + 15,452,072                                  |
| 1900                         | 32,510,578     | 1,928          | 32,512,506     | 92,224         | 10,926,952     | 10,719,906     | + 21,792,600                                  |
| 1901                         | 35,973,619     | 5,049          | 35,978,668     | 125,859        | 9,280,589      | 9,406,396      | + 26,572,270                                  |
| 1902                         | 31,196,727     | 6,092          | 31,202,819     | 140,749        | 11,593,985     | 11,734,734     | + 19,468,085                                  |
| 1903                         | 20,376,617     | 55,649         | 20,432,266     | 151,848        | 11,524,292     | 11,676,540     | + 8,755,726                                   |
| 1904                         | 18,822,540     | 3,984          | 18,826,524     | 189,383        | 12,367,002     | 12,556,385     | + 6,270,139                                   |
| 1905                         | 12,147,153     | 11,217         | 12,158,370     | 144,187        | 12,108,707     | 12,252,894     | + 94,524                                      |
| 1906                         | 16,275,667     | 7,234          | 16,282,941     | 267,989        | 15,084,940     | 15,352,929     | + 930,012                                     |
| 1907                         | 13,900,241     | 2,016          | 13,902,257     | 155,802        | 15,828,536     | 15,984,338     | + 2,082,081                                   |
| 1908                         | 14,620,167     | 6,157          | 14,626,324     | 161,820        | 13,557,869     | 13,719,689     | + 906,635                                     |