

## TRADE BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES.

It is quite difficult to make a correct statement of the trade between Mexico and the United States, because the official data of both governments never used to agree, especially on account of the different currencies prevailing in the two countries. As we have the silver standard, all our public accounts are kept in silver, and that makes our exports appear twice as large in value as they really are, when stated in the money of the United States, while we give our imports in the value of the country from whence they come, that is their gold value. That fact, which has often been overlooked, has caused the prevailing idea that there is a very large balance of trade in favor of Mexico, because the exports of United States commodities in Mexico amount to a given figure a year, the imports to this country of Mexican commodities amount to over double that figure; but it must be borne in mind that the former is in silver while the latter is in gold. For instance, according to the Mexican Bureau of Statistics the imports into Mexico of merchandise from the United States in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1896, amounted to \$20,145,763, while the exports of metals and commodities from Mexico to the United States during the same year amounted to \$79,651,695, the proportion being almost four to one; but if the imports are doubled as they ought to be, because the Mexican currency is silver, they amount to \$40,291,526, and if the exports of Mexico into the United States, calculated also in silver, are reduced to gold, they will amount to one half or \$39,825,847.50.

In corroboration of this statement I will mention the fact that according to the data of the Statistical Bureau of the United States Treasury Department, the exports to Mexico of commodities and precious metals from the United States during the last fiscal year, ending June 30, 1897, amounted to \$23,535,213 while the imports into the United States of commodities and precious metals amounted to \$30,714,366. Since March 1893, however, the Statistical Bureau of the United States Treasury Department, has reduced to gold the silver value of the Mexican metals and commodities imported in this country, and its data come now nearer to the mark, as in the year 1896 it gives the total exports of merchandise from this country into Mexico as \$19,450,256, while the total imports of merchandise from Mexico into this country are \$17,456,177.

The figures of our exports appear very large in the Mexican returns, because our merchandise is sold in gold markets, and their gold price is reduced to silver, and increased in the same proportion in which silver depreciates. It is not therefore the amount of merchandise which has increased so much, as that the price has been swollen in reducing it from gold to silver. In that regard the returns from the United States Statistical Bureau are more in conformity with the facts.

Another cause of the discrepancy between the statistics of both countries is that the Statistical Bureau of the United States Treasury Department had not, prior to March 3, 1893, any data of commodities exported to Mexico by way of the frontier, as there was no law which provided for the collection of such data, and a very large portion of the trade between the two countries is carried on by the frontier, especially since the railroads connecting both countries were finished.<sup>1</sup> That deficiency was only in relation to the exports, as the imports were duly declared for the payment of duties, and therefore the statistics of the United States necessarily were deficient and incomplete about the exports to Mexico of United States commodities, and that accounts in a great measure for the discrepancy between the official data published by both governments, and for the great discrepancy between exports and imports which appear in the statistics of the United States for those years.

From the preceding remarks it will be understood why there is such a great discrepancy between the data of the respective Bureaus.

It is very difficult to make a correct statement of the trade between the two countries previous to the organization of the Bureau of Statistics of the United States; but I found in a book published in Washington in 1860 by Mr. Carlos Butterfield, entitled "The United States and Mexican Mail Steamship Line and Statistics of Mexico," a statement of the imports and exports between Mexico and the United States from 1826 to 1858, taken as he states from official data of the United States Treasury Reports, which I will use.

That statement is complemented by two tables furnished to me by Hon. Worthington C. Ford, Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department. The first contains a statement of the trade between the United States and Mexico, during the forty-six years from 1851 to 1897, and the second is a full statement of that trade, including gold and silver during the same period. (Pages 174 and 175.)

I have prepared besides from the official publications of the Bureau of Statistics of the United States Treasury Department, a detailed statement of the commodities imported into the United States from Mexico, and exported from the United States to Mexico during the

<sup>1</sup> For these reasons the statements of the Statistical Bureau of the United States, previous to the fiscal year ended June 30, 1892, contained the following foot-note:

"In the absence of law providing for the collection of statistics of exports to adjacent foreign territory over railways, the values of exports to Mexico, from 1883 to 1893 inclusive, have been considerably under-stated. Since March, 1893, there has been a law in force for the collection of exports by railways. According to official information from Mexican sources, the value of imports into that country from the United States during the year ending June 30, 1888, was \$19,264,673, including precious metals valued at \$38,362. Prior to 1866 the figures include gold and silver imported and exported. For 1866 and subsequent years, merchandise only."

years 1858 to 1897, which is complete so far as the records of this government go, and contains very valuable information.

I will give first a partial statement prepared by the Bureau of Statistics of the Mexican Government of the total imports to Mexico and the imports from the United States of America from the fiscal year 1872-1873 to 1895-1896, and then another detailed statement prepared by the same Bureau of the total exports from Mexico and the exports to the United States of America from the fiscal year 1877-1878 to 1895-1896.

From said data it will be seen that the trade of Mexico with the United States is increasing very rapidly, notwithstanding the difficulty thrown in the way by high protective tariffs. Only a few years ago, as will be seen by the appended statement, our largest trade was with Great Britain, the United States occupying the second place, while now the United States occupies the first place, both in amount of our exports and imports.<sup>1</sup>

Value of exports during the fiscal year 1872-1873 with their destination.

Great Britain.....	\$12,479,547.75	Guatemala and Honduras.	80,999.52
United States.....	11,366,530.76	Italy.....	17,389.00
France.....	4,604,417.38	Belgium.....	4,784.00
Panama (New Grenada)...	1,579,015.12	Ecuador.....	2,931.75
Germany.....	802,643.83		
Spain and the Island of Cuba	752,891.91	Total.....	\$31,691,151.02

TOTAL IMPORTS TO MEXICO AND IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES FOR THE FISCAL YEARS, 1872-1873 TO 1895-1896.

	IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES.	TOTAL IMPORTS.
	Value.	Value.
1872-1873.....	\$5,231,255	\$20,166,013
1873-1874.....	5,946,614	23,282,299
1874-1875.....	5,028,636	18,793,494
1884-1885 First 6 months.....	5,045,531	11,893,342
1885-1886 First 6 months.....	5,145,736	10,585,898
1888-1889.....	22,669,421	40,024,894
1889-1890.....	29,080,276	52,018,659
1892-1893.....	26,235,963	43,413,131
1893-1894.....	14,351,785	30,287,489
1894-1895.....	15,130,367	34,000,440
1895-1896.....	20,145,763	42,253,938

MEXICO, November, 1896.

<sup>1</sup> This statement is corroborated by the following extract from an official report addressed to Lord Salisbury by Mr. Lionel Carden, British Consul-General at the City of Mexico, on the trade of Mexico during the year 1896:

"The great increase in the imports of American goods this year must be regarded by British merchants and manufacturers as another warning that unless they soon make a serious effort, they will have to give up all hope of profiting by the increase in the Mexican import trade, and may even lose part of the very limited share of it they at present enjoy."

TABLE SHOWING THE TOTAL EXPORTS FROM MEXICO AND THE EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 1877-1878 TO THE YEAR 1895-1896.

	EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES.			TOTAL EXPORTS FROM MEXICO.		
	Precious Metals.	Commodities.	Total.	Precious Metals.	Commodities.	Total.
1877-1878...	\$ 8,664,052	\$ 3,676,937	\$ 12,340,989	\$ 22,663,438	\$ 6,622,223	\$ 29,285,661
1878-1879...	7,439,815	4,741,724	12,181,539	21,528,938	8,362,540	29,891,478
1879-1880...	6,848,231	6,568,375	13,416,606	22,086,418	10,577,136	32,663,554
1880-1881...	7,601,767	6,556,424	14,158,191	19,354,704	10,573,994	29,928,698
1881-1882...	5,451,771	8,309,131	13,760,862	17,063,767	12,019,526	29,083,293
1882-1883...	9,036,773	7,702,325	16,739,098	29,628,658	12,178,937	41,807,595
1883-1884...	12,822,241	9,002,160	21,824,401	33,473,283	13,252,213	46,725,496
1884-1885...	16,404,776	9,448,285	25,853,061	33,774,051	12,896,794	46,670,845
1885-1886...	15,496,336	9,933,259	25,429,595	29,906,401	13,741,316	43,647,717
1886-1887...	16,576,120	11,152,595	27,728,715	33,560,503	15,631,427	49,191,930
1887-1888...	17,915,116	13,144,511	31,059,627	31,006,188	17,879,720	48,885,908
1888-1889...	23,647,920	17,205,443	40,853,363	38,785,275	21,373,148	60,158,423
1889-1890...	24,098,147	18,924,294	43,022,441	38,621,290	23,878,099	62,499,389
1890-1891...	23,400,833	21,582,253	44,983,086	36,256,372	27,020,023	63,276,395
1891-1892...	30,447,566	19,485,099	49,932,665	49,137,304	26,330,411	75,467,715
1892-1893...	40,113,882	23,723,761	63,837,643	56,504,305	31,004,916	87,509,221
1893-1894...	36,681,273	23,978,970	60,660,243	46,484,360	32,858,927	79,343,287
1894-1895...	38,852,843	28,470,143	67,322,986	52,535,854	38,319,099	90,854,953
1895-1896...	51,071,661	28,580,034	79,651,695	64,838,596	40,178,306	105,016,902
Total....	\$392,571,083	\$272,185,723	\$664,756,806	\$677,209,705	\$374,698,755	\$1,051,908,460

STATEMENT TAKEN FROM THE UNITED STATES TREASURY REPORTS OF THE COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES FROM 1826 TO 1850.

YEARS.	EXPORTS FROM MEXICO INTO THE UNITED STATES.	EXPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES INTO MEXICO.	TOTAL TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.
1826.....	\$ 3,916,000	\$ 6,281,000	\$ 10,197,000
1827.....	5,232,000	4,163,000	9,395,000
1828.....	4,814,000	2,886,000	7,700,000
1829.....	5,026,761	2,331,151	7,357,912
1830.....	5,235,241	4,837,458	10,072,699
1831.....	5,167,000	6,178,000	11,345,000
1832.....	4,293,954	3,467,541	7,761,495
1833.....	5,459,818	5,408,091	10,867,909
1834.....	8,666,668	5,265,053	13,931,721
1835.....	9,490,446	9,029,221	18,519,667
1836.....	5,615,819	6,040,635	11,656,454
1837.....	5,654,002	3,880,323	9,534,325
1838.....	3,127,153	2,787,362	5,914,515
1839.....	5,500,707	2,164,097	7,664,804
1840.....	4,175,000	2,515,341	6,690,341
1841.....	3,484,957	2,036,620	5,521,577
1842.....	1,996,694	1,534,493	3,531,187
1843.....	2,782,406	1,471,937	4,254,343
1844.....	2,387,000	1,794,833	4,181,833
1845.....	1,702,936	1,152,331	2,855,267
1846.....	1,836,621	1,531,180	3,367,801
1847.....	746,818	692,428	1,439,246
1848.....	1,581,247	4,058,446	5,639,693
1849.....	2,216,719	2,090,869	4,307,588
1850.....	2,135,336	2,012,827	4,148,163
Total.....	\$102,245,303	\$85,610,237	\$187,855,540
Average.....	\$4,089,812	\$3,424,409	\$7,514,222



STATEMENT SHOWING THE QUANTITIES AND VALUES OF THE PRINCIPAL AND ALL OTHER ARTICLES OF IMPORTS INTO THE UNITED STATES FROM, AND OF EXPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES TO, MEXICO, 1858-1883.

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE FROM MEXICO.

YEAR ENDING JUNE 30—	BREADSTUFFS AND OTHER FARINACEOUS FOOD.*		COFFEE.	COPPER, PIGS, BARS, AND OTHER UNMANUFACTURED.		CHEMICALS, DRUGS, DYES AND MEDICINES.		HIDES AND SKINS OTHER THAN FURS.	HAIR UNMANUFACTURED.	INDIA RUBBER AND GUTTA-PERCHA, CRUDE OR UNMANUFACTURED.	JUTE, AND OTHER GRASSES, RAW.
	Indian corn.	All other.		Found.	Value.	Found.	Value.				
1858..	\$ 34,686	\$ 28,108	29,687	\$ 1,437	\$ 31,793	\$ 107,649	\$ 1,030	\$ 496,920	\$ 11,261	143	\$ 50,173
1859..	45,520	15,794	45,518	3,038	144,437	46,208	1,336	457,297	1,485	389	44,861
1860..	38,940	5,124	549,265	10,542	49,651	161,115	110	535,591	2,074	251	25,114
1861..	19,612	8,445	401,416	1,320	91,645	115,757	411	297,527	2,204	382	35,670
1862..	6,399	1,734	1,626	1,734	49,564	91,976	...	171,965	11,555	252	23,537
1863..	15,048	6,399	935,594	14,681	91,151	48,694	10,830	593,530	912	898	44,047
1864..	9,818	2,927	122,663	16,468	153,434	14,422	14,422	393,978	2,169	843	63,455
1865..	11,736	4,498	147,950	16,468	153,434	14,422	14,422	393,978	2,169	843	63,455
1866..	6,337	955	297	5,699	66,350	40,722	30,924	371,186	3,166	20	30,490
1867..	9,075	1,183	524,777	3,001	139,154	108,754	30,924	368,817	2,868	862	17,453
1868..	20,150	883,823	138,775	3,123	144,144	187,337	64,526	745,550	2,728	600	237,835
1869..	71,163	57,120	203,948	3,123	144,144	187,337	64,526	745,550	2,728	600	237,835
1870..	70,321	48,513	110,607	7,326	144,144	207,859	81,380	833,743	4,607	3,358	611,090
1871..	74,854	68,313	110,607	2,304	92,816	244,932	36,668	833,743	6,442	4,244	626,044
1872..	53,547	43,114	1,878,301	218	104,772	39,660	53,356	714,880	15,940	4,244	784,800
1873..	53,547	43,114	1,878,301	218	104,772	39,660	53,356	714,880	15,940	4,244	784,800
1874..	61,081	37,720	2,035,540	3,120	55,239	27,752	163,745	1,003,387	55,420	3,590	534,980
1875..	33,628	31,002	2,030,285	2,161	61,064	65,662	70,000	1,561,830	18,625	23,710	613,338
1876..	45,090	40,022	3,041,220	2,490	39,736	150,413	219,103	1,329,702	79,230	11,103	542,756
1877..	25,791	39,411	6,789,693	7,017	54,510	72,402	204,135	1,675,546	42,170	11,364	889,061
1878..	12,321	34,339	6,337,063	7,017	54,510	72,402	204,135	1,675,546	42,170	11,364	889,061
1879..	33,497	56,432	8,307,040	3,302	62,483	96,877	159,017	1,951,918	36,964	44,235	930,306
1880..	65,230	65,432	9,818,525	19	68,345	149,651	263,642	2,111,750	39,701	164,847	1,634,215
1881..	87,840	43,141	13,911,910	6,825	20,973	160,070	108,030	1,525,107	38,810	325,206	2,061,939
1882..	58,648	41,352	17,020,660	494	5,813	128,734	119,681	1,568,645	241,478	123,484	2,712,088
1883..	22,072	50,192	8,578,532	8	211,714	211,714	119,681	1,568,645	52,085	241,478	2,712,088

\* All other breadstuffs comprise barley, barley malt, bread and biscuit, oats, rice, wheat, wheat flour, meal of all kinds, peas and beans; all other farinaceous food and preparations of breadstuffs.

† All other chemicals, drugs, dyes, and medicines include: Argols; medicinal banks; camphor, crude; madder; soda, nitrate of; gums; cutch and catechu; opium; soda and salts of; sulphur or brimstone; chloride of lime or bleaching powder; all chemicals, not elsewhere specified.

Statistical Notes on Mexico.

Trade with the United States.

MEXICO, 1858-1883—Continued.

YEAR ENDING JUNE 30—	LEAD, PIGS, BARS, AND OLD.	ANIMALS, LIVING.	PRECIOUS STONES.	SALT.	SPICES OF ALL KINDS.	SUGAR AND MOLASSES OF ALL KINDS.	WOOL, RAW AND FLEECE.	WOOD, UNMANUFACTURED.	OTHER MERCHANDISE.	TOTAL IM-PORTS OF MERCHANDISE.
1858..	36,517	825	...	\$ 6,285	\$ 1,252	\$ 9,569	\$ 4,137	\$ 43,674	\$ 275,991	\$ 1,108,201
1859..	91,440	1,829	...	11,321	1,272	8,273	5,864	55,949	365,964	1,244,084
1860..	320,141	6,203	...	22,555	642	55,309	15,531	102,571	810,105	1,993,431
1861..	57,482	1,150	...	12,260	1,835	25,333	3,650	102,571	141,120	886,112
1862..	205,136	13,988	...	16,138	1,551	16,457	3,160	51,415	* 280,150	710,088
1863..	4,600	297	...	40,871	3,859	49,576	1,544	69,014	† 1,087,089	3,043,882
1864..	648	60	...	36,447	10,876	14,116	792,676	62,342	† 1,087,089	6,128,445
1865..	25,152	1,599	...	6,456	30,020	79,904	163,297	83,021	† 1,087,089	6,220,874
1866..	79,504	4,799	...	13,645	10,041	1,563	106,021	106,021	† 1,087,089	1,726,002
1867..	52,043	2,471	...	13,645	10,041	1,563	106,021	106,021	† 1,087,089	1,726,002
1868..	49,511	2,467	...	13,216	10,476	29,735	69,493	72,973	† 1,087,089	1,590,667
1869..	45,121	2,365	...	30,235	13,841	65,197	716,068	126,345	† 1,087,089	2,336,164
1870..	42,274	2,365	...	29,604	14,463	28,123	656,459	126,345	† 1,087,089	2,715,665
1871..	39,240	1,930	...	29,604	14,463	28,123	865,959	176,724	† 1,087,089	3,209,688
1872..	37,170	1,930	...	29,604	14,463	28,123	865,959	176,724	† 1,087,089	3,209,688
1873..	37,170	1,930	...	29,604	14,463	28,123	865,959	176,724	† 1,087,089	3,209,688
1874..	37,170	1,930	...	29,604	14,463	28,123	865,959	176,724	† 1,087,089	3,209,688
1875..	37,170	1,930	...	29,604	14,463	28,123	865,959	176,724	† 1,087,089	3,209,688
1876..	37,170	1,930	...	29,604	14,463	28,123	865,959	176,724	† 1,087,089	3,209,688
1877..	37,170	1,930	...	29,604	14,463	28,123	865,959	176,724	† 1,087,089	3,209,688
1878..	37,170	1,930	...	29,604	14,463	28,123	865,959	176,724	† 1,087,089	3,209,688
1879..	37,170	1,930	...	29,604	14,463	28,123	865,959	176,724	† 1,087,089	3,209,688
1880..	37,170	1,930	...	29,604	14,463	28,123	865,959	176,724	† 1,087,089	3,209,688
1881..	37,170	1,930	...	29,604	14,463	28,123	865,959	176,724	† 1,087,089	3,209,688
1882..	37,170	1,930	...	29,604	14,463	28,123	865,959	176,724	† 1,087,089	3,209,688
1883..	37,170	1,930	...	29,604	14,463	28,123	865,959	176,724	† 1,087,089	3,209,688

\* Of this amount \$60,497 was the value of unmanufactured cotton.  
 † Of this amount \$1,750,615 was the value of unmanufactured cotton.  
 ‡ Of this amount \$4,859,725 was the value of unmanufactured cotton.

Statistical Notes on Mexico.

MEXICO, 1858-1883—Continued.  
EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE TO MEXICO.

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30—	SHEEP.		BREAD AND BREADSTUFFS.		COTTON, RAW OR UNMANUFACTURED.
	NO.	VAL.	Indian corn.	Wheat and wheat-flour.	
1858.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1859.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1860.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1861.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1862.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
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1880.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1881.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1882.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1883.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

\* Bread and breadstuffs, all other, comprise barley, bread and biscuit, Indian corn-meal, oats, rye, rye-flour, other small grain and pulse, maizena, farina, and all other breadstuffs, or preparations of, used as food.  
† Chased under the general heading "Animals, living, all kinds," total, \$156,773.

Trade with the United States.

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE TO MEXICO—Continued.

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30—	COTTON, MANUFACTURES OF.		DRUGS, CHEMICALS, MEDICINES, ACIDS, AND DYE-STUFFS.	GLASS AND GLASS-WARE.	IRON AND STEEL, AND MANUFACTURES OF.	LEATHER, AND MANUFACTURES OF.
	Colored.	Uncolored.				
1858.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1859.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1860.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1861.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1862.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
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1878.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1879.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1880.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1881.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1882.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1883.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

\* Including, also, printing presses and type, scales and balances, sewing machines and parts of, steam and other fire engines and apparatus.  
† Included in "All other."