NATIONAL PROSPERITY

Shown by the Following Statistics.

Uncle Sam has balanced his books for the fiscal year of 1899, and the statistics of his business during the last twelve months is an eloquent story of prosperity. In its financial pages, the nation cleared an advance of 443,445 worth of American products, and in return bought only $51,709. This is a national record. For the year's transactions the world owed the United States a balance of $30,366,937, which must be paid in service of some sort, stocks, bonds and other articles of value.

Since the presidential convention of 1898 the United States has enjoyed a foreign trade without a parallel in its history. During those three years the balance of trade and the world assumed the tremendous aggregate of a billion and a half the exact figures being $1,051,839,217. This debt has been partially settled by net imports of $597,015,000 of gold destined for the foreign exchanges, which has been wiped out by ocean freight rates and by the return of American securities from Europe, but there is reason to believe that the foreign balance is still in our favor.

One of the most striking facts in the increase of the exports of manufactured articles, Yankee notions are fast capturing the world, for the demand upon the workmen of our factories is so great the American skill and brain is growing at a lively pace. These exports reached the aggregate great amount of $35,500,000, an increase of $897,000 in 1898. This shows a jump of $45,000,000, a gain of 13 per cent in a single year, and a large share of this sum was earned by the iron and steel industries of the United States.

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