C. 5105 Ronaguai

Interesting information concerning the resources of this remote country is supplied by Mr. Henderson, British consul at Assumption, in his last report on the trade of the The amount of the exports and imports for the last five years shows a small increase in both during 1856, over the preceding years. This is mainly owing to the increased production and value of tobacco since its introduction into Europe, and to the augmented consumption of foreign manufactures. Nearly one-half of the amount of exports, 106,000l., represents produce sold or exported by the Government, which leaves a sum of 122,200%, as the amount of exports by the trade. The imports on account of the Government, in war materials, machinery, stores, &c., which have been very large within the last few years, do not appear in the official returns. The imports by the trade, represented at 126,000%, according to the Custom House valuations, are worth about 25 per cent. more, or 157,600l., making a surplus in the imports over the exports by the trade of 35,400%. The principal produce of the country for exportation is the Yerba or Paraguay tea. It is a monopoly of the Government, by whom it is principally exported. Very little wood is exported, although it abounds in the country, and is greatly in demand. The most important export to the trade is tobacco, of which the Government only appropriates a small portion. The demand has increased considerably since its introduction into European markets, and agriculturists find it to be the most lucrative product of the soil. In 1854, about 2,600,000 lbs. were exported; in 1855, about 6,780, 000 lbs.; in 1856, upwards of 5,000,000 lbs. Hides, raw and tanned, form the only other article of export of any importance. The opening of the river navigation up to the Brazilian province of Matto Grosso, will doubtless in time have a favourable effect on the commercial policy of Paraguay. Several vessels have already proceeded to the port of Albuquerque with considerable cargoes of merchandize, both from Buenos Avres and from Assumption; but as yet no positive or reliable information has been obtained of the commercial capabilities or of the productions of Matto Grosso. The total number of vessels entered at the port of Assumption was 171, being an increase of 20 upon the preceding year; the official value of the cargoes was 126,2111. The clearances amounted to 190, being an increase of 46; value of exports, 228,6281. Three-fourths of the shipping was under the Argentine flag, and the national and Uruguayan flags comprise the greater part of the remainder, though there were also vessels under the British, French, Sardinian, and Brazilian flags. These statistics are interesting, from the limited extent of the popular knowledge of Paraguay, and encourage the liveliest hopes that the great resources of the country will soon be available to the commerce of the world.



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