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CANADIAN COMMERCIAL AGENTS.

In order that our readers may be aware of the location of Canada's trade commissioners in foreign countries we append a list of the commissioners and their addresses. This list will appear permanently on this page.

J. S. LARKE, Sydney, N.S.W., agent for Australasia.

G. EUSTACE BURKE, Kingston, Jamaica, agent for Jamaica.

ROBERT BRYSON, St. John, Antigua, agent for Antigua, Montserrat and Dominica.

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C. E. SONTUM, Christiania, Norway, agent for Sweden and Denmark.

D. M. RENNIE, Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic, agent for Argentine Republic and Uruguay.

In addition to their other duties, the undermentioned Canadian agents will answer inquiries relative to trade matters, and their services are available in furthering the interests of Canadian traders.

I. G. COLMER, 17 Victoria Street, London, S.W., England.

THOMAS MOFFAT, 16 Church Street; Cape Town, South Africa.

AS TO NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.

The religious press, or that portion of it that vegetates in Toronto, recently sent a delegation to interview Hon. Mr. Mulock, the Postmaster General, to protest against the proposition of the Government to impose postage upon newspapers going through the mails, or rather, upon the religious newspapers. The gist of their argument was to the effect that the imposition of postage would be a serious tax upon their newspapers without benefiting the revenue of the Post Office Department to any appreciable extent. They showed that Canada lies contiguous to a great nation that produces vast quantities of literature, some of it of a very pernicious character, that has free passage through the Canadian mail, that in this way this objectionable reading matter has easy access to Canadian homes, and, because of its perniciousness, has an injurious effect upon the minds of the Canadian people, particularly upon the younger portions; that because of existing

treaties and laws this cannot be absolutely prevented, and that the evil can best be counteracted by the freest possible circulation of a purer and cleaner and better class of Canadian newspaper literature. It was also argued that no customs duty whatever is imposed upon newspapers coming into the country through the mails; that such newspapers can be produced for less money abroad than in Canada; that the newspaper industry of Canada is handicapped by the duties imposed upon presses, paper, ink, etc.; and that there are other circumstances which would go to make American newspaper competition unbearable, were Canadian newspapers required to pay postage.

With the spirit of which we disagree. In the first place, we cannot see why religious newspapers, or trade newspapers, or any other class of newspapers should be entitled to free transportation through the mails any more than letters, circulars, miscellaneous articles, books, American newspapers, British newspapers, or any other newspapers, or any other sort of literature or merchandise. If any American literature is of a pernicious character, it can only be prevented from coming through the Canadian mails, by Act of Parliament; and by the same token Canadian literature of a pernicious character should be suppressed by the same authority; and to our mind it is ridiculous to suppose that the pernicious influence of improper reading matter, having the free use of the mails, can be counteracted or suppressed by Canadian religious or other literature, unless it also has free use of the mails. It is begging the question, too, to say that American newspapers have free use of the Canadian mails, while Canadian newspapers would not enjoy the same privilege. Under our postal arrangement with the United States, any newspapers or other matter admitted to the use of the mails in that country, are entitled to free carriage to destination in Canada through Canadian mails, and all such mailable matter, originating in Canada, destined for points in the United States, is privileged to free transportation through the United States mails. We cannot see why the claim of the religious newspapers for free transportation through the mails should be supported on the ground that they are, from their character, the religious educators of the people, any more than the clergymen of the churches that these newspapers represent, are entitled to free transportation over the railroads for the same reason. The people who patronize and read American newspapers do so because they desire to do so, and it does not speak much for Canadian newspapers when they acknowledge a failure in creating and maintaining an equal interest among the people for themselves, and that they cannot possibly exist unless they are the pampered favorites of the Government.

FREE TRADE AND PROTECTION IN ENGLAND.

There is a protective movement going on in England to which we have frequently called attention. Attempts have been made, and practically endorsed by the Government, to form a customs union between Great Britain and her colonies on a basis of free trade among themselves and protection against outsiders. This plan has been dropped for the present, but the protective sentiment remains.

Behind this, there is a reason why Christendom has not adopted free trade and why in Great Britain itself there is now a protectionist movement. Gunton's Magazine comment-