

cable rates towards this end cannot be overestimated and it is disheartening to observe the negatively welcome the cable companies gave the suggestion that a reduction in their tariffs was desirable. From a purely business point of view it seems probable that the diminution in cost per word would be more than counterbalanced by the consequent increase in messages. But be that as it may, the actually hostile attitude of the companies concerned augurs badly for the success of any scheme that may seem at first glance to affect the shareholder. It is precisely this spirit which will probably render the majority of the Congress suggestions abortive; selfishness is not confined to the individual and it is only human nature to be enthusiastic over any undertaking so long as it does not call for personal sacrifice.

Meantime it is satisfactory to note the subsidence of the war scare, which a few weeks ago held England in its grip, though Ministerial speeches have all been somewhat pessimistic in tone. The warning they convey is that the Empire must be prepared to meet any eventualities and this preparedness has now become such a gigantic business that all parts of the Empire must combine if it is to be ensured. This, however, is no excuse for the inflammatory criticism that has recently permeated the British Yellow Press. Violent diatribes against a nation with whom we are supposed to be on friendly terms can be productive of nothing but disastrous consequences to all concerned. As a matter of fact there is no real reason why England and Germany should not live on the best of terms; there is no traditional enmity between them and the memory of many a battle in which both fought shoulder to shoulder should serve to soften the friction engendered by acute commercial rivalry. War at its best is a poor investment and just at present all thoughts should be turned towards the development of those great territories which are awaiting the plough of the farmer or the axe of the woodman and which offer to the Mother Country a solution of one of her gravest difficulties, though it be a domestic one: a home and a living for her surplus population.

Imperial unity means something more than unity of policy, it means co-operation in all undertakings that will benefit the Empire as a whole and will serve to cement into one homogenous entity the various portions of its being.

MR. ROBERT W. TYRE, manager for Canada, of the Northern Assurance Company, Limited, is visiting agencies of his company in Manitoba, and other places in the West.

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THE UNITED STATES TARIFF.

The Canadian Senate comes in for a good deal of criticism as a fifth wheel to the state coach, and some Canadian reformers are fond of holding up the United States Senate as a model for imitation. But the system of two legislative chambers equally representative in character and to a large extent of concurrent jurisdiction is not without its drawbacks. When the Dominion House of Commons has spoken, for instance, on the tariff question, there is no mistaking Canada's tariff policy for the time being. Under the American system anything like a coherent tariff policy seems unattainable. Congress in 1897 adopted a high tariff for the avowed purpose of facilitating preferential treaties with foreign powers. The Senate by the sweeping use of its veto power on international treaties has frustrated practically everything in the way of preferential treatment and left the people of the United States to all the rigours of an admittedly extreme tariff. To-day the Senate is frustrating the policy of moderate reform upon which the present administration got into power. Thus far the whole presidential campaign in barren of results so far as the trade policy of the United States is concerned. This is just one more evidence that the theory that the people of the United States govern the country is a constitutional fiction.

Because the United States has prospered exceedingly under the policy of protection, and to some extent because of that policy, does not obviate the necessity for constant watchfulness over the incidence of its tariff. Conditions are constantly changing not only at home but abroad. For instance, an American Consul, Mr. A. G. Seyfert, reports to his government that about 150 American firms have been driven to establish branch factories in Canada with a joint capital of about \$175,000,000. The capital invested by Americans in the Canadian lumber business is estimated at about \$40,000,000. Nations no more than individuals can live entirely to themselves. The instinct of the American people generally with reference to this matter seems to be a true one. Perhaps they are less under the influence of the various highly protected than are their too numerous representatives at Washington.

ILLINOIS TRACTION EARNINGS for May were \$350,157 gross and \$140,434 net, as compared with \$310,591 gross and \$126,899 net a year ago. For the five months net earnings amounted to \$705,669 compared with \$638,910 in the corresponding period of 1908.

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