

able chance of developing a considerable trade with South Africa in a number of articles which we produce; and we shall probably have to send somebody, but at more moderate rates, that I can answer for, to investigate the prospects in that region. Then, strong applications have been made to me with respect to sending some person to the West Indies to see if my hon. friend's recent generousities there will be productive of any good results. These two, and possibly one or two matters which may come up, will be likely to absorb at least \$5,000, I am afraid.

Mr. FOSTER. I am very glad to hear my hon. friend make the admission that the trips that may be inaugurated during the coming year may not be so expensive as, for instance, the South American trip. But why should we send some one to South Africa? Has not the member of the Cabinet from Quebec done South Africa already? Has the face of the country changed so completely since his trip that some one else must be sent to reconnoitre the land? Or is not sufficient reliance put upon his report? It does seem like a want of confidence in him by his colleagues, and a want of confidence all the more remarkable since he has a large business experience not to be expected from the generality of persons sent scouting down South America. I do not see why any money should be spent with reference to that country. As to the West Indies, after the extreme generosity of the Minister of Finance and the extremely friendly way in which his generosity was met by the Island of Jamaica, which proceeded to put up the duties on bacon and other agricultural products, it might be well to spend some money in sending some one to see the Governments there. I am not sure, however, that it would not be better, if the hon. gentleman himself would perform mission work upon the gentleman by his side.

Mr. MONTAGUE. May I ask if the member of the Cabinet without portfolio made any official report on his mission to South Africa?

Mr. DOBELL. My visit to South Africa was entirely for my own pleasure and experience.

Mr. FOSTER. And the profit of the country?

Mr. DOBELL. That is always my first aim in everything I do, and I may say that I brought back from South Africa an offer from the Government of the Cape of Good Hope to join Canada in subsidizing a line of steamers to Cape Town. At that time there was no line of steamers leaving this continent at all for Cape Town, but a line was being arranged from New York, and the gentlemen who were carrying out that scheme offered to go to Canada if Canada offered

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them the subsidy which they suggested and of which Cape Town would pay its share. At that time the Opposition were my friends.

Mr. FOSTER. And are yet. We do not cherish any bad feeling.

Mr. DOBELL. And I reported to them the scheme, which, I believe, was well worthy of their attention, but just at that time they were greatly in love with Australia, and did not think there was room for a second opening. A line of steamers was established between New York and Cape Town, to make monthly trips. That service has since been increased to a fortnightly one, and this spring a gentleman came to New York to establish a weekly service from that city to South Africa. Yet we have no service from Canada to that country. I do believe that South Africa would afford a field for a large portion of our surplus manufactures and agricultural implements. It would take also large quantities of flour and other products of the field, and I think it is a place worthy of our serious attention during the next two or three years.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Has the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce any report from Ecuador recently?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. There are possibilities, no doubt, but on the western coast of South America we find ourselves considerably handicapped by the operations of German merchants who succeeded in inducing their vessel owners to give them extremely cheap freights, much cheaper than we can obtain either from British Columbia or Canada.

Mr. INGRAM. What is the item to provide for the administration of Chinese immigration?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. There is a tax per head on Chinese coming to this country, and that is collected under the supervision of the officers of the Trade and Commerce Department.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The last sub-item in this item, for commercial agencies, including the expenses connected with the negotiation of treaties, &c., shows an increase.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I was just explaining to the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) how that was likely to be expended. It will be expended chiefly in promoting trade with South Africa, and probably also in sending some gentleman to the various West India Islands.

Mr. MONTAGUE. There was a discussion as to whether Canada should have a commercial agent at Washington. This is not intended for that purpose?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. No. That was a larger question which was raised. It is one which has been discussed here before, and that is the ex-