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CURRENT COMMENTS

A Business Men's Congress

DURING the latter part of next month an unique conference of the Empire's business men is to be held in Montreal. Every three years a congress of the Chambers of Commerce within the British Empire is held at some important centre, attended by delegates from the colonies and from the larger cities of the United Kingdom. The triennial turn comes again this year, and Canada's commercial capital has been chosen as the place of meeting. The congress has never before met outside of the British Isles, and this year's innovation may therefore be taken as a compliment, with great results possible.

To this meeting in Montreal will come delegates from every part of the Empire—from England and Scotland, from South Africa, from Australia, and from our own Canadian cities. Their business together will be the discussion of commercial, industrial, and economic questions bearing upon the welfare of the British Empire, and the assembling of such a body, under such auspices, cannot but be of benefit to the various countries represented. It is a radical departure from the "little Englander" methods, whose results will be the widening of acquaintance, the strengthening of Imperialism, and the expansion of business relations.

So far as Canada is concerned the chief benefit will, perhaps, be in the atten-

tion which will be called to her recent development and her industrial possibilities. The delegates to the congress, all of them men of business ability and gathered from opposite quarters of the globe, will be given their first introduction to Canada in the form of a tour from coast to coast at a time of year when the country is at its richest. It is safe to say that to the great majority of these men their visit will be an eye-opener, and while the deliberations of the congress will be of great importance, Canada will profit by the advertisement of her resources and her industries. Active preparations are being made for this unique convention, and Canadian Boards of Trade are arranging local programmes for the over-sea delegates. It will be an Imperial conference of practical business men, who will carry back to their homes practical impressions, and it is therefore fitting that Canada should prepare to play the host becomingly.

Canada's Right to Preferential Trade

THE most significant sign of the times in the relations of Canada to the rest of the Empire is that foreshadowed by Mr. Chamberlain in his recent speech at Birmingham. Canada's right to preferential tariff, in return for the preference given voluntarily by Canada to England, and the wisdom of the mother country's fostering the good-will and business relations of the colonies, were the themes of the Colonial Secretary's speech,