

Modes and Persians, when the true interests of the country demand alterations. The Minister of Marine showed himself to be a man of real grit, which cannot be said of the talented and respected Liberal leader, Mr. Laurier, and those who accompanied him on his recent missionary tour. Those gentlemen came here to convert those whom they regarded as political heathen; but the fact of their having no new gospel to preach, being in fact rooted and grounded in no kind of faith, they weakened their cause, and but for the local issues which, however, were satisfactorily disposed of by the Minister of Marine, rendered the work of the last named when here all the more effective.

TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA.

The steamship Warrimoo of the Canadian-Australian line returned to Victoria and Vancouver during the week, and has sailed again for home. Her incoming cargo was comparatively light, but she took out again a fair passenger and freight list. The prospects of this line would seem to be improving. Both the Warrimoo and the Miowera have been fitted with the latest and most improved cold storage apparatus, and are now in every way appointed for the expected important and increasing trade to be done between Canada and the Antipodean colonies.

Mr. J. S. Larke, Canadian Trade Commissioner to Australia, was a passenger on the Warrimoo. He had interviews while here with the Board of Trade as well as business men from the Mainland, to whom he outlined his plans, and who gave him a number of suggestions as to the work he had undertaken. While going, as he said, to pave the way for business, he urged Canadian manufacturers and exporters to visit the colonies and ascertain what the market would take and then send men to place the goods. Mr. Larke

said he would be better able to tell the prospects after he had been in Australia, and would on his arrival be glad to answer every enquiry addressed to him from Canada and give all information possible. He does not doubt for a moment that Canada will get her full share of the trade.

What must be done is to first of all find out what the Australians want—and then supply it. Canadians can, he holds, compete successfully, both as regards quality and price, with the United States in almost everything that the latter country now sends to Australia. The pioneers of Canadian trade with Australia have made in several cases the mistake, discouraging to them, of sending consignments out without making any preparation for their intelligent introduction. The result was only natural; the consignments were a loss to the shippers.

It is said the Australians are somewhat slow in making their financial returns, but this is no doubt to be accounted for by the fact of their isolated position having left them somewhat off the track of the ordinary business methods which obtain on this continent, the British merchant, too, not having in the past been so prompt in his demands as his American rival has been.

AN INSOLVENT LAW.

We are glad to have the assurance of Sir Charles H. Tupper that the Insolvent Bill which passed the Senate last session will be revived this year. The whole Dominion requires uniform legislation on this important subject. For want of it business has materially suffered, and well-recognized wrongs as between man and man have been allowed to pass without any redress being obtainable. In fact in many cases what has been the reverse of honest and

square-dealing has been regarded as perfectly legitimate by men whose only consideration was that they should not get left in the case of a business disaster. It has been possible under the ordinary local laws relating to the collections for debt for snap judgments to shut out not only distant but local creditors who happened to be a little slow in getting in their work. On this account confidence between wholesalers and retailers has been weakened, many of the latter having been restricted in their dealings to those who before the delivery of their goods arranged for a dead sure thing as regarded the collections, and in addition charged all sorts of prices and levied usurious interest on men whom their action at no distant date forced to suspend operations. We do really hope that an Insolvency law will not longer be delayed. As Mr. Robert Ward observed, Canada is the only one of the colonies of Great Britain which does not possess such a law.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

It is announced that Mr. R. P. Rithet, of Victoria, and other gentlemen, have purchased a beautiful Hawaiian plantation about twelve miles outside of Honolulu, which during favorable years has paid 40 to 50 per cent. on its capital stock, and is capable of still further development. In ten years it has paid half a million dollars in dividends to its stockholders.

The Winnipeg *Commercial* explains that though the price is low there is a better market for all the wheat and flour Manitoba and the Northwest can produce, than is to be found in India and China, "It would not," it says, "be sound economic policy to reduce prices in Manitoba to 20 cents per bushel and under in order to compete with the Pacific Coast for the Asiatic flour trade, when we can pay 40 to 45 cents for our wheat to ship East."