

## THE SHADOW OF WAR.

The effects of impending war on business are already beginning to be felt among us. For although no hostile gun has been fired, unmistakably the prospects of war are imminent. Our Montreal correspondent notes the impending shadow over several trades. In furs, for instance, which are always promptly affected by war, there is a weak feeling, and buyers are extremely cautious. The American lumber market is depressed, and the leather market is unsettled from the same cause; Montreal boot and shoe manufacturers are light buyers. In the States, while some foolish jingoes rejoice in the prospect of a fight, most business men dread it with the financial disturbances that are sure to arise, and with the increased internal taxes and import duties that it is likely to bring. While such a war would enhance the importance of the St. Lawrence route to the sea, it is pointed out by the St. John Globe that the coasting trade of the Maritime Provinces would be paralyzed, and most of the craft now used in conveying lumber and shingles to American ports would be forced into idleness. Besides this trade a great many of the schooners brought back coal, flour, etc. "Craft sailing to the West India and small South American ports would also find their trade very much curtailed in the event of war. . . . The trade that is now carried on to and from the north side of Cuba and Porto Rico would come to a standstill, and . . . the large square-rigged Canadian vessels that now find employment between the gulf ports and the River Platte would also meet with a demoralized trade should hostilities commence."

## REACHING OUT FOR TRADE.

It is deserving of note that a Glasgow merchant, Mr. J. F. Brown, has come to Canada to see about shipping a certain class of lumber suitable for box-making. He was in Toronto on Friday last, and left for Parry Sound. About ten years since a Greenock or Leith representative was in Toronto on a like errand. In the earlier case the visitor wanted to induce Canadian lumber makers either here or in Ottawa to ship box stuff in "knock-down" shape to the British Islands, to compete with the Scandinavian wood. In the present case, however, Mr. Brown comes because, we understand, he finds it increasingly difficult to procure the wood he wants from Norway. Canada ought to do an immense business in this direction.

Canada bulks largely in an elaborate article in the "Journal" of the Royal Agricultural Society on the subject of "Bacon Curing." It prefigures a great extension of the bacon curing industry in Great Britain, England being the market of the world for bacon and pig products. Incidentally the author, Mr. L. M. Douglas, quotes some striking figures, which illustrate both this fact and the extent to which Canada has realized and profited by it. Thus, the quantity of pig meat imported into the United Kingdom has more than doubled in twenty-one years, and Denmark has shared largely in the growth of this trade. Canada, however, is rapidly gaining the leading place on the English market. The article goes on:—

It is safe to say that the coming rival of all other countries in the production of bacon is Canada. The attention given to the breeding of pigs by the agricultural authorities and the enthusiastic co-operation of the farmers are alike contributing to this result. "Peafed Canadian" is fast displacing Danish meats and taking the leading place in the English market. No doubt the supplies in Canada will continue to increase by the same leaps and bounds as of late years, so long as the Dominion farmers devote as much attention to the quality of hog produced. It is said now that one house alone in Canada often kills as many hogs in one week as the whole of the Danish slaughtereries.

In the current number of the Windsor Magazine Mr. Ernest Williams dilates upon the prospect of Canada's doing an export trade in butter which may one day rival her cheese export. He at all events has no doubt of our ability in this direction. He says:

"Undoubtedly Canada will make great inroads on the butter market. Her wonderful success in the cheese business warrants the rosiest expectations. The present preponderance of cheese over butter is attributed to the capacity of cheese for traveling in ordinary temperatures. Difference in quality and reputation has, I expect, more to do with the case, but there is a good chance of approximation here, and in that event the provision of cold storage at so nominal a cost should put the delicate butter on an equal footing with the cheese. Butter will also get an impetus from the efforts which the Agricultural Department is making, and with success, towards getting the cheese makers to practice butter making in winter. Professor Robertson and his assistants are teaching the people how to turn their cheese factories into butter factories during this off-season. The Agricultural Department goes even farther. In the North-West Territory it undertakes to make the butter for the farmers, and market it, at a small charge to cover the service, for a period of at least three years—that is, for the time during which the Government loan for the creamery association runs."

## ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE SHOE INDUSTRY.

Trade unionism has done much to advance the interests of working people. The union is not always, as many suppose, opposed to the interests of employers, and in securing a uniformity in the cost of labor confers oftentimes a boon upon those who are charged with the organization of industry. Manufacturers, on their part, do not object to high wages so long as their competitors are equally bound with themselves. They are then in a position to pass on the costs to consumers. Only the strong unions with an effective national or international organization are able, however, to accomplish this happy result. The weak unions are the cause of untold disaster to manufacturing interests, and to this latter class the union in the shoe industry of Toronto belongs. Trade unionism is impossible, so long as it is merely local in its application. For some years the trade unions dominated in Toronto boot and shoe manufacturing circles and wages were, by their influence, maintained above those paid in the Province of Quebec. The results were that some of the shoe manufacturers were forced out of the business, others transferred their plant to Eastern Canada, while the houses remaining were compelled to do largely a jobbing business, selling footwear that had been made in Montreal and Quebec. These changes were accompanied by serious loss to the capital and labor directly interested, as well as to the general trade of Toronto and the Province.

The unions were forced to disband and a reasonable schedule of wages, about on a basis with that paid in Montreal and still above that of Quebec city, was adopted. Plant which had been idle was called into request and men and women who had been working on short time were busy every working hour in the week. As a result of the reduction in the rate of piece-work wages, the employees were enabled to earn a much larger aggregate wage in the course of the year. The manufacturers have in the reduction of their cost of production, been able to recover some of the ground that had been lost. When the bottom finishers employed by the J. D. King Company, instigated, it is said, by agitators from the United States, decided to form a trade union, it is little wonder their action was resented. The cutters have joined the bottom finishers and 100 men are striking for a principle that has well nigh ruined shoe manufacturing in Toronto. If a national union could be formed strong enough to organize labor in all parts of the Dominion and bring about uniform conditions in the boot and shoe labor market, none would