

of other companies confirms the impression gained from these statistics. An executive officer of a Chicago road is reported to have suggested that perhaps the best policy for the railroads to pursue would be to build a few miles of trolley lines at various points along their own line and bring in the passengers from the surrounding country. These lines would be connected with their own tracks, and the road could carry the passengers between the neighboring towns either over their own rails or on a separate track along their right-of-way.

THE METALLIFEROUS WEALTH OF ONTARIO.

Mr. Archibald Blue, Director of the Ontario Bureau of Mines, in Part II. of the Seventh Annual Report of his Bureau, gives the statistics of the metalliferous mines and works of the Province for the three months of the current year ending March 31, together with the statistics of the year 1897 as follows:

	1898	1897
	3 mos.	12 mos.
GOLD:		
Ore treated.....net tons	13,939	27,589
Gold product..... oz.	5,288	11,412
Value of gold.....	\$86,175	\$190,244
SILVER:		
Ore treated.....net tons	35	
Silver product..... oz.	9,750	none.
Value of silver.....	\$5,287	
NICKEL AND COPPER:		
Ore smelted.....net tons	28,008½	96,094
Matte product..... "	5,236	14,034
Nickel in matte..... "	652	1,999
Copper in matte..... "	1,202	2,750
Value of nickel.....	\$119,910	\$359,651
Value of copper.....	\$75,369	\$200,067
Iron ore.....net tons	5,203½	2,763
Value at mines.....	\$9,488	\$4,689
PIG IRON:		
Ontario ores.....net tons	4,298	2,770
Foreign ores..... "	15,814	34,722
Mill cinder, etc..... "	2,157	5,350
Pig iron product..... "	12,927	24,011
Value of pig iron.....	\$155,126	\$288,128
Summarized by values, the statistics of the first three months of the current year and of the twelve months of last year are as follows:		
Gold.....	\$86,175	\$190,244
Silver.....	5,287	
Nickel.....	119,910	359,651
Copper.....	75,369	200,067
Iron ore.....	9,488	4,689
Pig iron.....	155,126	288,128
Totals.....	\$451,355	\$1,042,779

Comparing the production by percentages, it is found that the value of the gold product in the three months of 1898 is 50½ per cent. of the 12 months product of 1897; of nickel, 33½ per cent.; of copper, 37¾ per cent.; of iron ore, 202½ per cent.; of pig iron, 54 per cent.; and of all metals and ores, 43 per cent. These rates if maintained throughout 1898 should result in nearly doubling the values of 1897.

GERMANY'S BLOW AT CANADA.

Germany has not been slow to hit back at Canada for her practical attempt to begin the commercial federation of the British Empire. The Dominion, it will be remembered, signalized the year of Jubilee by offering English goods coming to her ports a reduction on the tariff which was imposed on foreign goods. This measure, as was well known at the time, was a contravention of the commercial treaties with Belgium

and Germany, under which England had disgracefully bound her colonies not to give easier admittance to English goods than to those of Belgium and Germany.

Regarding which the London Daily Mail says:

It was to force the hand of Downing-street that Canada took her action. In view of that action England had either churlishly to refuse her daughter's gift, or to take her courage in her hands and denounce the treaties. She adopted the latter course, and on the 31st of July the treaties will expire, and Canada will give British and Colonial imports a twenty-five per cent. preference over those from foreign countries.

But new treaties to supersede those denounced have not yet been concluded, and pending their drawing up and ratification, Germany has decided to continue to give England and her colonies the most-favored-nation treatment, but to exclude Canada.

So we are brought to Act the Second in the commercial federation drama. Germany, in a way, is perfectly within her rights in refusing favorable terms to the temerarious colony which has spoiled her game of spoiling England. But England also is bound to stand up for her colony. She cannot in decency take benefits from Canada and see Canada suffering in the slightest degree for conferring those benefits. So she must see Canada through. And how? Simply by hurrying on that Customs Union of the Empire which all the colonies have been urging for years past, which Mr. Chamberlain has already foreshadowed in England, which every Englishman, save a few belated cranks, is ready now to welcome.

When all the daughter States give to the mother country what Canada is giving, and when the mother country reciprocates the gift, we shall hear very little about Germany's refusal of most-favored-nation treatment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Canadian manufacturers and protectionists are yet to be heard from in regard to a reciprocity arrangement which proposes to make Canada practically a free market for our manufacturers.—Home Market Bulletin.

The employes of every factory which is working under the old N.P. tariff are enjoying prosperity and good wages. The shirt and collar makers, working under the new Fielding tariff, are enjoying a cut in wages.—Hamilton Spectator.

Speaking of the conditions that are now shedding such a halo of prosperity over Canada, The Toronto Globe says:—June concludes a banner year in Canadian trade, our exports aggregating \$158,726,801 and our imports entered for consumption \$130,630,195, a total of \$289,356,996. This total is \$44,059,852 greater than the figures for the previous year, the increase in exports being \$24,723,678 and in imports \$19,336,174. The aggregate trade is a round \$50,000,000 greater than in 1896, and is the greatest record for any year in our history. The large exports from the Dominion during the past two years are a feature of the trade situation. With but a few exceptions the yearly imports have exceeded the exports, the average since Confederation up to 1897 being \$16,766,000. In 1897 the value of our exports exceeded the imports by \$18,732,000, and in 1898 by \$27,006,000. The increase of aggregate trade for the past year has been about double that of any year in the history of the Dominion, and the excess of exports is an indication that Canadians are paying off their debts owed abroad. The total exports and imports are generally but a small fraction of the trade of a nation,