

The Toronto Board of Trade delegation which was in Ottawa a few days ago brought a question before Mr. Fielding, which shows the remarkable grip which the Standard Oil Co. has on this country. Many manufacturers use fuel oil, but they are crippled by the refusal of the Standard Oil Co. to sell them crude oil and oil refuse. The Board of Trade are doing a good work in the interest of Canadian manufacturers.

Messrs. J. N. Morang, A. W. Thomas, J. M. Taylor and S. M. Wickett, all of Toronto, and Harrison Watson, Curator of the Canadian Section of the Imperial Institution of London, England, have been named to represent the Canadian Manufacturers' Association at the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, which is to be held in London in June.

Foreign vessels entering United States ports with cargoes are of course of all nations. The comparison in numbers, however, according to nationality, is somewhat of an eye-opener. For instance, Germany furnished 653; France but 110; Norway, 931, and Italy, 127; Belgium, 113; Holland, 112; Portugal, 35; Spain, 37; Sweden, 12; Japan, 21; Austria, 53; Mexico, 2; Russia, 8; and Great Britain, 9,031. If any one is in doubt as to what country our commercial interests are the most closely interwoven, and which is really the dominant sea-power of the world, these figures of incoming loaded ships for a period of twelve months, ought to set their peradventures at rest. The figures include both steam and sailing vessels entered at the Custom Districts of the United States. These do not include vessels entering American ports in ballast. The total of American and foreign vessels, with cargoes and in ballast was 32,094. —The Age of Steel.

Several Toronto firms connected with the Press Association, at an emergency meeting held last week adopted the following resolutions:—"Resolved that in view of the unfairness of the zone system in the present law and of the great rise in the price of paper, that we appeal to the Postmaster-General to recommend the Government to remove the postage from newspapers and periodicals." "Resolved, in view of the great rise in paper prices, and in view of the scarcity of paper, resulting from the destruction of the mills, the Government be asked to request Parliament to pass an Act empowering the Governor-in-Council to temporarily suspend or reduce the duty on news and printing paper, under such conditions as may be deemed advisable." Messrs. W. J. Douglas, of the Mail and Empire; J. A. Cooper, of The Canadian Magazine; and D. T. McAlinsh, of the Westminster Publishing Company, were appointed a deputation to wait on the Government at Ottawa and press for action on the lines of the resolutions.

The Parliament of Canada is now considering a project to give newspaper publishers free transmission in the mails for their various publications. There is no valid reason why the owners of newspapers should enjoy any such immunity, and we do not believe any important publishers want such a free gift at the hands of the Government. Sir Charles Tupper is wrong in supporting such a measure, and the Government will be more wrong if it yields to clamor in this matter. —Montreal Star.

The Ontario Government have passed an Order-in-Council requiring tanbark cut on Crown Lands in Ontario to be consumed in the country. In other words, the exportation of tanbark cut upon the lands mentioned is prohibited. In taking this step the Government have adopted the policy urged upon them by the tanners of Ontario. These gentlemen waited upon the Provincial Cabinet some time ago and pressed for some measure that would restrict the shipment of tanbark from Ontario. They stated that the supply in the United States was limited compared with that in Ontario, and American tanners were supplying themselves from this Province and conserving their own resources. The run upon Ontario bark was therefore so great that it would exhaust the material in a short space of time unless a stop were put to the drain. Canadian tanners, it is argued, is superior to the raw material used by tanners in any other part of the world, and if preserved for the use of the manufacturers of this country will enable them to turn out more finished products. The Order-in-Council regarding tanbark is regarded as another step in the policy which the Ross Government have adopted looking to the manufacture of Ontario's raw materials in Canada. The list now consists of sawlogs, nickel, pulpwood and tanbark. The present Order-in-Council goes into effect on May 1, but does not affect tanbark cut on the lands of settlers.

President McKinley has been authorized to invite Great Britain to join in a commission, four from each Government, to consider the diversion of waters along the boundary of the United States and Canada. The inquiry is designed principally to ascertain the effect of the level of the great lakes caused by improvements at the Welland Canal, Sault Ste. Marie Canal, and the Chicago Drainage Canal.

The new 33½ per cent. preferential tariff is threatening the woollens trade of Canada with something approaching extinction, and has caused a panic amongst the manufacturers. A large and influential deputation of the woollen manufacturers waited on Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. W. S. Fielding a few days ago, pointing out that their living was seriously endangered by the change coming into force on Dominion Day, and asking that in order that they may be defended from the inroads of British competition, which includes a large amount of "made in Germany" goods, the duty be increased sufficiently to retain the same amount of protection as they now enjoy. The Ministers promised their serious consideration.

Mr. R. W. Elliot has written to Mr. W. E. H. Massey, with reference to a report which the latter recently presented to the Toronto Board of Trade on the question of electric power. Mr. Elliot advocates the liberal distribution of copies of the report, and supports the calculations and conclusions contained therein as to the cost of producing steam power and its relative value as compared with electricity for factory work. Mr. Elliot says:—"But when transportation and markets are studied out, then the great superiority of Toronto as a Canadian manufacturing point becomes fully apparent, and questions of differing costs of power sink out of sight. The city furnishes a market for more than one-third of our goods, and within a radius of one hundred and fifty miles places the greater part of the balance in the hands of consumers."