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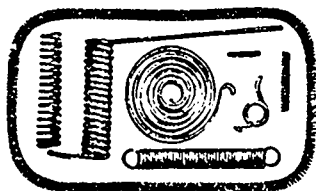
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TRADE WITH TRINIDAD.

The offer of the Dominion Government for a free interchange of products with Trinidad is under consideration by the Legislature of that Island. The announcement in Minister Fielding's budget speech has resulted in a scramble by Opposition members for statistics of the island.

Trinidad is the most southerly of the West Indian islands, and is quite close to the north coast of the continent of South America, Venezuela being only seven miles distant. The island is about fifty-five miles in length by forty in breadth, with an area of 1,750 square miles, and an estimated population of 300,000, of which Mr. Fielding said about one-third were negroes and one-third East Indian coolies. The island was discovered by Columbus in 1498, was colonized in 1588 by the Spaniards, and capitulated to the British under Abercrombie in 1797. The capital and port of entry is Port of Spain, with a population of about 50,000. Trinidad is a Crown colony, with a Governor appointed by the Home Government. He is advised by the Executive Council of seven official members and a legislative council of nine official and eleven unofficial members, all nominated. About 58,000 acres are under sugar cane, 105,000 acres under cocoa and coffee.

Trinidad is well known for its pitch lake of asphalt, which is 110 acres in extent, and is leased to an English company. During the year 1898 100,208 tons of asphalt were exported.

The chief exports of Trinidad in 1898 were: Sugar, 113,696,421 pounds, rum, 86,513 gallons, molasses, 660,535 gallons, bitters, 33,089 gallons, and cocoa, 21,340,960 pounds.

The exports of the island in 1898 were valued at £2,310,130 and the imports at £2,283,054. The directions in which the staples of the island, sugar, molasses, rum, cocoa, coconuts, asphalt and bitters, principally went were: Great Britain, £498,722; United States, £664,077; France, £257,940; Canada, £21,645. The imports from the United Kingdom were valued at £796,359, from Canada, £73,053, United States, £496,160; Venezuela, £574,613.

The principal imports of the island consisted of Flour, £152,797; rice, £104,146; hardware, £129,132; butter, £39,897; coal, coke, and fish, £66,818; malt liquor, meats, £72,789; coal oil, livestock, £64,160; lumber, £41,216; textile manufactures, £315,622; soap, fresh vegetables, wine, etc.

It will be seen from the aggregate trade figures that the United States has acquired a firm footing on the island. There is a possibility, however, of Trinidad turning to Canada for relief from her impending fate. The Governor, in his last annual report to the home authorities, says:

The ultimate fate of the sugar industry in Trinidad will depend almost altogether on the measures taken by the Imperial Government to abolish or counteract the bounties given by foreign powers. It is probable that five years hence, Louisiana, Hawaii, Cuba and the Philippines will be able to supply the consumption of the United States. The West Indies will then be driven to compete in England with bounty fed sugar.

On the island there are 600 miles of telegraph and eighty four miles of railway, thirty-two steamers from Europe arrive at the island every month, and four from Canada and the United States.

THRESHING MACHINERY.

The John Abell Engine & Machine Works Co., Toronto, have sent in their new "Cock o' the North" illustrated catalogue and price list having reference to the numerous lines of agricultural and farm machinery manufactured by them. One of the most interesting features of the book is a very fine half tone portrait of Mr. John Abell, the founder of the business, opposite which is the following statement which explains itself: "We have much pleasure in presenting with this catalogue a recent portrait of Mr. John Abell, our honored and beloved President and General Manager, the founder of the great business whose products are so favorably and widely known."

As this book will be placed in the hands of many new customers, we may repeat for their benefit what we said in our last large catalogue, namely, that

Mr. John Abell was the first man to build portable engines for threshing purposes on the North American continent, the first man to build compound portable engines in North America, the first man to build a compound traction engine in North America, and was the only exhibitor of such an engine at the World's Columbian Exhibition held at Chicago in 1893.

Mr. Abell had the pleasure of receiving from the hand of Her Royal Highness, the Princess Louise, in the Senate Chamber, Ottawa, a silver medal, and has had the satisfaction of seeing his engines win thirteen gold medals, being all the gold medals offered for competition in Canada, besides winning silver and bronze medals, and securing many diplomas both at home and abroad.

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