

THE TRADE ARRANGEMENT EFFECTED WITH THE WEST INDIES.

As you are aware, the important trade agreement made last year with the British West Indies has been ratified by Parliament and by the various West Indian legislatures. A temporary difficulty arose in providing an improved steamship service.

This difficulty, however, has at last been surmounted, and Mr. Foster expects shortly to consummate a contract with the Royal Mail Packet Company, one of the most extensive and progressive steamship lines in the world, for a modern up-to-date service between the Maritime Provinces and various ports in the British West Indies.

There is every reason to anticipate that the new trade agreement coupled with improved facilities of transportation and communication will strongly tend to develop a profitable and increasing trade between the Dominion and the West Indian Islands. It is manifest that our flour, fish, vegetables and manufactures can be exchanged with great advantage for their sugar, tropical fruits and other similar products.

In other administrative matters the Government have pursued an equally progressive and vigorous policy. Work on the National Transcontinental Railway has been pushed with vigor. The construction of the Hudson Bay Railway is so far advanced that one hundred and fifty miles have been graded and one-half of the work will be finished early in 1914. The whole road will be completed in 1915. The work upon the Quebec bridge is proceeding with expedition and thoroughness, and the contracts have been awarded for two of the three