

as our United States neighbors, and do away with the irksome customs obstructions in the United States ports. Again, New Zealand produce, like flax, tallow, wool, casings, gum, etc., could go direct and form a return cargo for Canadian steamers from the Cape, doing away with the very undesirable interference of New York.

In consequence of the letter, of which the foregoing is a resume, Mr. de Schryver had an interview with the acting Premier, on the 24th October. "Sir Joseph seemed to be highly interested, and thought my scheme an excellent one. He promised that the New Zealand Government would be quite willing to assist as much as possible to bring this desirable end about. His parting words were: 'We will be only too glad to hook on with Canada and create another "All Red" line between the two colonies; look me up when you come to Wellington to talk matters over.' This I naturally promised, though the next four weeks will not give much chance to the minister to look into matters like this, the electoral campaign being on, and naturally absorbing all his attention. In the meantime you might assist in your valued paper to further the scheme on your side. The Canadian Manufacturers' Association I am sure will also take the matter up to help it along.

"On Saturday the 25th, Mr. Seddon, Premier of this colony, returned from his coronation trip, and met with a most hearty welcome home on the part of the Auckland populace. In an interview with a press representative he refutes most emphatically all the nasty rumors which have been circulated about him here as well as in England. He is looking very well, indeed, as I can testify; and his first speech from the platform near the municipal buildings, where he received an address of welcome from the mayor on behalf of the citizens of Auckland, was as vigorous as ever. I do not think the Opposition has the slightest chance to dislodge him. 'King Dick' is too strong for them."

Auckland, New Zealand, October, 1902.

#### SUGAR AND FRUIT CULTURE.

The opening of Botanical Stations in the British West Indies has been followed already by very encouraging results. These stations correspond to the experimental farms in our own country and are simply an adaptation of the same idea to tropical needs. One result has been to increase the productiveness of cane until a species has been developed which will yield from 18 to 25 per cent. more sugar than the cane which has been raised ever since that industry became the mainstay of the islands. Much has also been done to improve cocoa and fruit culture. Under the new regime which will be inaugurated by the abolition of bounties in Europe next year, sugar production will be a very profitable industry in the islands, and the probable outcome will be that before many years Canada will be drawing all her sugar supplies, saving what she produces herself from beetroot, from the British West Indies, which in its turn will have the effect of drawing us nearer to our kinsmen in trade. Canada's chance is coming, and if we fail to take advantage of it it will be clearly a great want of enterprise.

A new industrial era is being opened up for the islands by the Botanical Stations, for not only have they shown the people how to improve the productivity in sugar and cocoa and fruits, but new industries have been opened up, or rather the possibility and feasibility of new industries have been demonstrated. For instance, cotton of a very fine quality has been produced, and it may be that the day is coming when the British West Indies will supply a large part of the raw cotton that will be turned into fabrics in Canadian and British mills.

With the improvement of agricultural conditions thus created there should in time come to be a much larger consumption of Canadian manufactures, and one line that should benefit immediately should be agricultural implements, for the market for such manufactures should enlarge steadily there with improving agricultural conditions.

#### INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS IN NOVA SCOTIA AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

As frequently mentioned in these columns the coal mines of Nova Scotia are producing at a rate that a few years ago would have been regarded as an impossible development. For instance the Reserve mine alone will produce more coal this year than all the mines in Cape Breton county together did a few years ago. The actual figure will, we are told, be 800,000 tons. In 1895 the Cape Breton mines, including the Reserve, produced only 500,000 tons. In the Pictou and Cumberland mines great activity has been shown this year, and when the new year is reached the former will, it is said, have raised 20,000 tons more than last year, and the latter 70,000 tons more. There is great activity at the mines of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co. at Sydney Mines, and the present production of 1,200 tons a day will be increased, it is predicted, in the next half year to about 2,500 tons daily.

Coal shipments have been very active of late, particularly up the St. Lawrence river, as it is desired to send large quantities to the great markets there before navigation closes, which will be in a few days. Shipments to Europe are about to commence again, and it is probable that during the winter 100,000 tons of Nova Scotia coal will go across the Atlantic. Large shipments will also in all likelihood be made to the United States.

The maritime boot and shoe factories are not in the combine which it is reported is about being formed in footwear. And at the present time the outlook for the maritime factories is bright. The Amherst Boot and Shoe Company among others has had a very prosperous year. Mr. M. D. Pride, the manager, recently told an interviewer in Halifax that they had increased the turn-over \$35,000 during the present year. The Amherst company is one in which many of the employees are shareholders, so that much of the labor put into the products of the factory is more than ordinarily enthusiastic.

In a synoptic report recently issued by the Provincial Secretary of Agriculture we find that Nova Scotia has enjoyed a good average crop year. Potatoes have been a little below the average, but for the most part other crops have been average, and in some cases exceptionally good. One encouraging feature of the crops this year is the success which has attended efforts at more wheat culture. The weevil has disappeared, and our farmers, particularly in the eastern sections, have had much encouragement. The butter production this year has been unusually good and large.

There has been an impression in the public mind for some time that the Londonderry iron deposits had been worked out, but recent developments show the misleading character of that idea. New deposits are being uncovered almost daily. A few days ago an eight-foot seam and six-foot seam were uncovered. The outlook for iron developments there are therefore encouraging.

The improvement of railway facilities at this terminus of the I. C. R. are engaging much attention. It now seems pretty sure that the era of double tracks in Nova Scotia is close at hand, and it is said that a good commencement will be made by laying a second track next spring from Halifax to Windsor Junction on the Intercolonial. In Halifax, the railway authorities find it advisable to instal a lighting plant for the railway property, so much artificial light must now be used, particularly during winter months.

Many people have failed in gold mining in Nova Scotia because they lacked proper knowledge of scientific principles. The great trouble has been that many have spent money simply on surface developments. The best method seems to be deep mining. As an instance of the value of the latter method, the Baltimore and Nova Scotia company, operating at Cariboo, are now mining at a depth of 800 feet, and intend to go to a depth of 1,000 feet. Their success has been good, for quartz taken at a depth of 800 feet has yielded 32 pennyweights per ton. Three hundred and fifty tons of quartz crushed yielded \$11,200.

Several industrial developments of a smaller character are now taking place in Nova Scotia—developments