

cause the powers they propose to confer upon the City Council, are about equal to those of a provincial legislature. We do not hesitate indeed to say that these powers are altogether in excess of what should be entrusted in connection with the existing method of civic government.

The question now, is whether it is not time for a more radical departure, than that contemplated by the new Charter. In three years time, the Dominion Census will be taken. By that time, we ought to have a "Greater Montreal" in existence, well organized and well-governed. In no other way can Montreal get credit for the full extent of its growth. The population of the old City is already so dense that there is little room for expansion within its limits. The thriving towns that have grown up around Montreal, owe their existence to and naturally belong to the city. Annexation sooner or later is their manifest destiny. They are all engaged in piling up debts and incurring responsibilities that we shall have to assume, and doing lots of things that we shall have to rectify at our own expense. The longer annexation is postponed the more it will cost.

With the establishment of "Greater Montreal" should also come a radical change in our system of municipal government. All administrative responsibilities should be placed in the hands of competent and well paid commissioners, and the aldermen left free to devote themselves to purely legislative duties.

We hope our Mayor, City Council and leading citizens will rise to the opportunity afforded by the revision of the Charter to inaugurate a new era in the history of Montreal.

By-the-way, it was distinctly understood that the various public bodies, such as the Board of Trade, Chamber of Commerce, Bankers' Association, Municipal Association, etc., would each be invited to send a representative to discuss the Charter clause by caluse with the Civic Committee. If this is not done, we will have the usual diversity of opinion before the Quebec Legislature, instead of unanimity which should prevail as far as practicable.

CANADIAN TRADE WITH UNITED STATES.

The High Commission sitting at Quebec has brought into prominence the trade done between Canada and the United States as one of the questions of the day. A great change has come over the relations of the two countries in recent years, both commercially and politically. The determined efforts made some years ago, to prevent the development of manufacturing enterprises in Canada, resulted in an equally determined struggle by Canadians to encourage native industries. Coincident with the endeavour to capture the Canadian market for manufactured goods in order to benefit American industries, there was, and there has been kept up, a persistent effort to exclude the natural products of Canada, except those required as raw materials, such as logs.

As the United States obstructed the entrance of Canadian goods by high tariffs, both those in a raw and those in a manufactured state, Canada was compelled to seek an outlet for her productions, especially those of the farm, in Great Britain and elsewhere. The policy of absolutely closing American markets to our goods was inspired, to some extent, by the hope that Canada would be driven by her commercial necessities to become annexed to the Republic. Another idea was that, as our productions were mainly agricultural, and America our only market for the bulk of them, we should be compelled to admit American manufactures free of duty in order to continue the enjoyment of that market for our agricultural products. Reciprocity was proposed again and again by Canada, but it found little favour in the States, as proposed by our representatives. We desired mutual privileges in exchanging our goods for similar ones, the States desired to keep our manufactures out altogether, or as far as possible, and to admit our raw materials only under reciprocal conditions. The situation assumed a new phase by the Ontario Government, establishing a regulation in regard to the timber cut in that Province, on Crown Lands, which are let for lumbering purposes. Instead of the logs being allowed to be shipped across to Michigan free from any restrictions, they are to be sawn into lumber in Canada before being exported. This bold stand against Canada being treated as a mere supplier of raw materials for the use of American manufacturers is now exciting great interest, as it brings both political parties into harmony in regard to the advisability of developing the industries of the Dominion by utilising its natural resources for manufacturing, and not for export in their raw state. Another new feature has arisen from the friendliness of sentiment which has sprung up in the States towards the mother country and Canada. It is fully recognized now that the annexation of Canada is a dead issue, and that Canada is a customer worth cultivating as such, without any political intentions. Canada, in proportion to her population, is the best customer of the States. In the year just closed, we bought \$17 per head of American goods, a sum exceeding the amount per head of that of any other country. Now that we have shown our independence, by a determination to work out our own destiny, the statesmen and publicists of the States are treating Canada with unwonted consideration. Our trade is being courted; our markets are being recognized as very valuable; the American people are being told that, if they desire to enjoy those markets, their own must be more accessible to us. In a word, the trade relations, existing and passible, between Canada and the United States, are being now discussed from the business standpoint. The table we append has been compiled from official returns, the very voluminous details of which we have classified under a few headings, and applied the same classification to both the goods imported from and the goods exported to the States. The salient feature of the table is,