

business to pass into the hands of more enterprising Americans, and early shipments of inferior goods brought Canadian manufactures into disrepute. Gradually, however, the trade is changing into Canadian channels. The Yukon demands the best, and our manufactures should do themselves justice. And why should they not secure that remaining one-third of the Yukon trade?

#### Shall the North Pole be Canadian?

TWO Polar expeditions came to a close this fall, and both were failures so far as finding the Pole was concerned. Explorer Baldwin established a large number of food depots, in readiness for another expedition next year, and made some important marine collections. He did not, however, make any real advance in polar discovery. Lieutenant Peary accomplished more, but still failed. He reached a latitude of eighty-four degrees, seventeen minutes, or in other words, he was within three hundred and sixty miles of the Pole. He rounded the northern limit of Greenland, probably the most northerly land in the world. He found the relics of the ill-fated Greeley expedition and brought back valuable collections of specimens and scientific data. He turned back because the polar pack became impassable.

It is possible that the Union Jack will be the first flag at the North Pole and that a Canadian will put it there. One of the earliest expeditions, the Greeley, was made up of Canadians, under Canadian auspices, and now there is another project on foot by which a native explorer hopes to win the coveted honor for his country. Captain Bernier, a French-Canadian, is now raising funds for a new expedition, the cost of which will be \$120,000. The Dominion Government will contribute half that amount, and the Ontario Government has promised \$15,000; the balance is being contributed privately. As soon as the funds are in

hand the work of building a ship will be begun. Captain Bernier's plans are novel and original. Peary, Baldwin, Nansen, Abruzzi, Greeley have all sought entrance to the Polar Sea by way of Greenland, while Captain Bernier will go by the Behring Sea. He claims this to be the more scientific route and more likely of success. He will sail as far north as he can, and then, taking up a good position, he will drift with the ice pack for two years and a half. At the end of that time he expects to be within one hundred and fifty miles of the Pole. At that point he will leave the ship and 'staff' the ice north to the Pole, leaving condensed provisions at half-mile intervals along the way. These caches will also serve as guideposts on the return to the ship, which will continue drifting to the southeast, coming out some eighteen months later between Greenland and Spitzbergen. In this way the action of nature will be taken direct advantage of, instead of opposing it.

Captain Bernier will use the wireless telegraph system on his expedition. He will carry instruments in full sympathy with a receiver at Dawson, and communication will thus be maintained regularly with the outside world. A telegraph message from the Pole will be a distinct achievement.

The discovery of the North Pole will not be of any material importance; it will never give financial returns. But measured in scientific terms, it will be of great significance. The Pole is now the only great geographical discovery that remains to be made. The indomitable energy of man has conquered all other seas and lands, but the Pole has hitherto conquered man. The game will not be given up, however. Some one will yet triumph and the great discovery will be made. It will be a distinction for Canada if this triumph shall be under her auspices and won by her sons. The North Pole is rightfully Canadian territory.