

The probable prospective increase is asked in question Two. As it refers more especially to the West India and South American trade, the following from the Report of the Commission, appointed to enquire into the trade with those countries, will show what a rich field is open to Canadian enterprise :

	IMPORTS 1864.	EXPORTS 1864.	POPULATION.
British West Indies,.....	\$ 28,866,408	\$ 31,678,539	• 1,115,028
Spanish " "	139,922,207	171,412,100	1,999,651
Independent "	11,706,665	10,975,000	1,150,000
Other West India Possessions,	13,000,000	13,000,000	420,000
Brazil,.....	61,522,937	64,735,350	10,045,000
	\$255,018,217	\$291,800,989	14,729,679

The West India Commission say "the argument naturally follows that the trade of British America with countries so commercially active, having so considerable a population, whose products are different from ours, yet as necessary to us as ours to them, ought to increase from its present magnitude, viz., \$3,727,862 of Imports, and \$4,670,653 of Exports to several times the amount."

In 1875, the *St. John Globe*, writing on the same subject says :

"There is no reason why, with energy and watchfulness, Canadian produce should not be able to secure a comparatively large and profitable share of the West India and South American trade. The United States sends annually to the British West Indies alone from ten to fifteen millions worth of their goods and to the other West India Islands and South America, wares to the value of sixty millions more. The field is a tempting one to Canadian enterprise. In many classes of goods we should be able to supplant the American producer, because of the cheapness of labour here, and the facilities which we possess for producing many classes of goods used in the southern portions of America and now furnished by the United States."

The probable prospective increase of the trade between Canada and the British and Foreign West India Islands is partly met in the above, but more fully in the following from a carefully prepared paper read before the Dominion Board of Trade, at its first Annual Meeting, 1871, by its president :

"It would be difficult to point out all the advantages which would result to Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick by the construction of the Baie Verte Canal. If the 900 ton propeller could deliver Western or Canadian products at Halifax or St. John, these places would become cheap depots for such products. Assorted cargoes of fish, hoops, shooks, lumber, &c., would be made up at these ports for the West India Islands and South America, and could bring back return cargoes from these countries of sugar,