

XIII.—DIRECT TRADE WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

GENERAL REMARKS.

An examination of the tabular statements on pp. 62 to 66 inclusive, will show, for a series of years, the extent and progress of the trade between Canada and Foreign Countries,—the tables on pp. 69, 70, indicating the change that has taken place with reference to a single staple product (Sugar) of the West Indies and Brazil. It would be interesting to go into more detail respecting the commerce of foreign countries with which the Dominion is entering upon more intimate relations; but so much space has already been occupied with the PRELIMINARY SUBJECTS, that further elaboration must be deferred.

Profitable development is looked forward to; and the Parliament of Canada has acted in a liberal spirit, by enabling the Government to make contracts with, and give subsidies to particular steamship lines, for service between the Dominion and certain ports of the Continent of Europe and of South America.

BRAZIL.—Some unforeseen difficulties have been encountered in connection with the line of steamships that was established a year or two ago for communication between Canada and Brazil, in consequence of which the service has been suspended for a little,—but to be immediately resumed under new auspices. A good deal of information has been given in former Reports of this series, relating to trade with the seaboard ports of Brazil. The Government of Canada has been liberal in its grants, and far from over-exacting in the terms of its contract. It would seem, however, that some of the conditions attached to the Brazilian subsidy, if strictly enforced at the beginning of the experiment that has been attempted, would hardly make the grant any help towards fostering the enterprise.

FRANCE.—A subsidy has been granted by Canada towards the running of a monthly line of steamships to and from a port in France, probably Havre. The contract, it is understood will be carried out by the parties interested in the revival of the line to Brazil.

GERMANY.—A subsidy has also been given for a monthly service between Canada and Germany, the port named being either Hamburg or Bremen. Steamships are to be placed on this line immediately.

BELGIUM.—Direct commercial relations between Canada and Belgium, which were entered upon a number of years ago, by a line of sailing vessels between Antwerp and the River St. Lawrence, have gone on steadily increasing, the enterprise having culminated in a monthly line of steamships, with the prospect of its expanding into fortnightly service. This Company (the "*White Cross Line*,") has also obtained a subsidy for monthly trips.