

stantly placing British and Canadian traders at a disadvantage, compared with the well-informed traders of an enterprising country like Germany, in the commercial schools of which geography holds so important a place. Under whatever heading it may come, then it is surely not in the interests of British or Canadian trade that such ignorance on the part of our mercantile men should exist.

But probably it is in new or not well-known countries that geography can be of the greatest service to the merchant. And this suggests another important application of geography, namely, to colonial enterprise. A little more knowledge of geography on the part of statesmen, of colonization agents, and of the public generally, would have averted many mistakes which have been made in carrying on the work of colonization. Some of the European nations have been of late years grabbing blindly at any unannexed lands within their reach, regardless, apparently, of their suitability, and anxious only to add as many square miles as possible to their foreign possessions. Germany, for example, possesses about a million square miles in Africa, but half of it is a hopeless desert.

Now, what are some of the problems connected with colonization that may be solved by geography? Colonies may be divided into two classes. There are, first, what are called by the French, Colonies of Exploitation—or Plantations; and, secondly, Colonies of Settlement, those suited to receive a new population from the mother country, or elsewhere. The former are best suited for a wealthy country that has no surplus population; the latter for one that has a constant ex-

cess of population, and also a certain amount of capital. The colonies of France and Germany are nearly all of the first type, while those of England are of both types.

As a rule, tropical countries can only be Colonies of Exploitation; and the problem which geography may help to solve, is how they can best be turned to account, or exploited, by the country to which they belong. The geographer will have to tell us what are the great physical features of the country and their distribution, and how they help or hinder commerce; what is the character of the climate; whether it is within a region of abundant or scanty rainfall, whether there are any native products that will be required by other countries; and if so, whether there are suitable means of transportation so that they can be placed in favorable competition with similar products from other parts of the world; what is the character of the soil, and for what exotic products it is suited. This last is a most important matter, for the mere collection of the natural products of a tropical region can develop a colony only within very narrow limits. Then there is the question of population, which for a colony of the plantation class is very important, as it involves the question of labor, without which, in abundance, the colony is a barren possession.

Such are some of the lines along which geography may be made to yield valuable assistance when applied to colonies of the plantation class. And no less valuable is the help that may be derived from its application to colonies of settlement. Here there is a much greater problem to solve. It is not a question of the temporary residence of a few