

CANADA AND SIBERIA.**English Writer Tells Monetary Times of Trade Opportunities Which Await Enterprise.**

To bring about a closer trade association between Canada and Siberia is the aim of an English writer, at present in Montreal. He has spent a considerable time in Russia, upon different occasions having travelled half-way across that country. Being conversant with the Russian language, he was in a good position to familiarize himself with the commercial requirements and the sentiments of the people, and he unhesitatingly states that there is opportunity for a large increase in the trade of Canada with Siberia.

In a recent article he tells of the changes and developments which have taken place in Russia of recent years, and shows how these have turned attention to a land which was formerly depicted as the home of the convict and the exile and the land of everlasting snow and desolation, but which is in reality capable of very great expansion. Railway development now going on and free land grants, together with assistance towards purchasing farm implements and a decision to give instruction in the use of the same, show how serious is the intention of the Government to develop the country. He points out that Vladivostok, the harbor of Siberia, is approximately the same distance from Vancouver as Yokohama and is open to navigation the year round, so that it is favorably situated for trade with Canada. Canadian agricultural implements are already favorably known in Western Siberia, where they are competing with German and United States makes.

Canada Has Good Chance.

Speaking to the Monetary Times, Mr. Lethbridge stated that, other things being equal, the Canadian or Britisher should stand a much better chance than his competitors, as the Russians did not like the Germans and considered the Americans were too "sharp"—and the Russian mixes his sentiments with his business to an unusual extent. The Canadian was at a disadvantage in that he was not prepared to give the same credit as the Germans and Americans. The market is well worth going after, no less than 100,000 new settlers being looked for this year, and the population having increased to 528,400 last year from

315,900 three years before. S. Ussuri, the province where agriculture is most carried on, is 73,700 square miles in extent. At the present time dairy machinery is imported entirely from Denmark and Sweden. Mining, alike by foreigners and Russians, is now being encouraged in Trans-Baikalia, which promises to be one of the richest areas in the world. There is a steady demand for portable engines, pumps, light railways, wire rope, boilers, lumbering and sawmill machinery, belting and packing, etc., all of which are imported. The imposition of a tax on flour will go far to keep foreign flour out of Russia, but it should still pay to import wheat in some sections of the country.

Canned meats and fruits are also being used in large quantities, and have been brought in principally from France and California, meats coming from the United States. Notwithstanding the imposition of a duty, these will still be imported. There will also be a good demand for condensed milk, which is duty free, and Canada might as well supply this as France.

Suggests Appointment of Trade Commissioner.

Vladivostok is now exporting beans and bean products to the United Kingdom and the United States, and will do an increasing export trade in timber, such as oak, larch, pine, white cedar, fir, spruce, birch, elm and poplar. No direct steamship service now exists between Vancouver and Vladivostok, although the establishing of one would give Canada a more advantageous route than is supplied by the 15,000 miles of Russian railway over which comes much of the goods which Canadian goods would have to compete with. Mr. Lethbridge is of the opinion that the appointment by the Canadian Government of a commercial agent in Siberia would be justified by the present situation.

Three million feet of lumber has been shipped from Windsor, N.S., this year so far, which entitles Windsor to be called the third lumber shipping port in the Province. But she should improve her shipping facilities, which are poor.

The new town of Davidson, Sask. (formerly Finsbury), consists now of two general stores and a hardware store, a drug store and two butcher shops, one hotel, one livery stable, one blacksmith shop, two implement depots and two lumber yards. The population numbers about one hundred.

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