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Our Ottawa Letter

Johnston Harvester Company, of Bataxia, New York, and director of the Verity Plow Company, of Brantford. It would appear, therefore, that Sir Lyman will earry with him the most important of the agricultural implement manufacturing concerns of the country. His decision is an indication of the fact that no party which decided to come out in favor of the abolition or material reduction of the duties can expect to retain the support of any of the protected interests but must depend for its sinews of war upon those who are not interested in these enterprises, including the agriculturists and the artizans of the

Very little has been heard this week about the C.N.R. and its aid proposals. Sir William Mackenzie and Sir Donald Mann have hied themselves away from the capital, with the result that there has been a temporary lapse of interest in the matter. The prevailing quietude does not indicate, however, that the railway knights are to be disappointed. Railway aid measures never come down until the last month of the session. It is not likely, therefore, that the situaon will again become acute until some time after the Easter recess. That aid in the form of a bond guarantee has been practically decided upon and that the Canadian Northern is framing a case which the government will present to parliament in justification for the aid to be given is generally believed.

Increasing Military Expenditures

There is considerable talk around the corridors of a rather protracted fight in committee of supply when the estimates of Hon. Sam Hughes, minister of militia are being passed upon. Hon. Sam, as is well known, has doubled the military expenditure of the country in two and a half years, and it is now proposed by the opposition that further increases should not be countenanced, more particularly in view of the decrease in revenue. An indication of the attitude

of Liberal members was given the other night. Hon. Robert Rogers, minister of public works, was piloting thru committee the estimates for public buildings which include many barracks thruout the country, for which the department of militia is responsible. When the first item of this kind was reached opposition members refused to allow it to pass until the minister of militia was present to explain. Fred Pardee, the chief opposition whip, remarked that the militia expenditure had grown at such a rapid rate that it was desirable that our "war lord'' should be present. The large expenditures of the minister are not popular with the representatives of rural constituencies on either side of the House. The probabilities, owing to this, are that the minister will be left to fight his own battles, and, as he possesses a somewhat indiscreet vocal organ, which is liable to arouse the wrath of members, as has been illustrated by some recent scenes in the house, a pretty warm time may be expected when the items representing a total of over \$14,000,000 come up for consideration.

Foster's Reciprocity Agreement

Hon. Geo. E. Foster must be disappointed in the results of Canada's trade agreement with the West Indies. Figures brought down in the house this week, at the request of F. B. Carvell, show a decrease in the volume of trade for the first six months the agreement was in force, as compared with the corresponding six months of the previous year. Here is the statement as submitted to the house:

"Canadian imports from British Honduras in 1912 were \$126,931 and in 1913 \$19,071. Our exports to British Honduras in 1912 were \$7,030 and in 1913

"The imports from Bermuda in 1912 were valued at \$4,871, as compared with \$3,144; and the exports in 1912 were \$213,550 as compared with \$215,885 in 1913

"Our imports from British Guiana fell in 1913 to \$1,419,064 from \$2,045,606; while the exports to British Guiana fell from \$336,780 in 1912 to \$317,300 in ports for the year reached the amazing

"From the remainder of the West Indies included in the agreement our imports decreased from \$3,172,923 to \$2,812,953; while our exports to the Islands increased from \$1,968,976 in 1912 to \$2,263,821 in 1913."

It will be agreed that these figures present a striking contrast to the growth of our trade with the United States, our natural market, a growth which, of course, has been accelerated by the lowering of some of the bars of tariff obstruction on the American side of the line.

SCHOOL LANDS FUND

During the year ending March 31, 1913, the three Prairie Provinces received a total of \$649,239,28 from the School Lands fund administered by the Department of the Interior at Ottawa. This sum consists of interest earned by the fund during the year, together with rents and dues in grazing leases, timber permits, etc. The whole of the capital payments received from the sale of school lands go into a fund which is placed to the credit of the province in which the lands are situated and the provinces each year receive interest on the amount standing to their credit and also the interest paid by purchasers on deferred payments. The sums received by each province in the year ending March 31, 1913, were: Manitoba. \$172,487.83; Saskatchewan, \$253,139.15; Alberta, \$223,612.30. The capital amounts standing to the credit of the provinces on April 1, 1913, were: Manitoba, \$3,356,924.74; Saskatchewan, \$2,-566,464.57; Alberta, \$2,088,909.20. amounts received by the provinces go into the provincial treasury and form part of the general fund from which grants are made for various educational

FREE TRADE AND BIG TRADE

The statistics for British trade for the year 1913 are now complete. Imports for the year reached the amazing total of \$3,850,000,000; exports were \$2,625,000,000. There never before was such exceeding growth in British foreign trade. Within ten years imports have increased 35 per cent., and exports have nearly doubled. At the same time there has been unprecedent ed development of the home trade, creating as a consequence an enormous demand for labor.

This is not a bad showing for a free trade country. Toward the end of the year the world-wide slowing-up of business began to put a check on the rising tide of industrial and commercial activ ity. Great Britain was the last of the great trading nations to feel the weight of depression. No other country was as well prepared to meet the inevitable reaction that follows upon a breakdown of commercial prosperity. "Whatever be the fate in store for British indus tries in the coming year," says a prominent London writer, "their position is at the present moment incontestably better than that of their continental rivals." In other words, "Protection does not protect," as the people of the United States know to their sorrow. Montreal Journal of Commerce.

PEACE POSTAGE

A number of prominent peace advocates are urging the nations included in the Universal Postal Union to issue a "Peace Stamp," which may be purchased and used the same as any ordinary postage stamp. They claim that if the peace postage should become universal thruout the world, it would have a powerful effect in promoting the movement of universal peace. It is suggested that the design for the stamp have something significant so that everyone who sees one will have the idea brought home to them, and thus bring the subject of universal peace before the public every day and in a very intimate

A big man is big enough to change