

late Wallace Ross, the oarsman, and is a thoroughly competent railroad man, and one of the most obliging officials on the I. C. R.

There is great excitement in New Brunswick just now over the Grand Trunk Pacific matter. Everybody in this section of the Dominion wants to see Parliament make provisions that will compel the Grand Trunk Pacific to do its winter shipping from a port in the Maritime Provinces. St. John is particularly interested, because the feeling here is that if the Grand Trunk builds to this section of the country, St. John will be the terminal. The attitude of the Minister of Railways on the question is being watched with great interest by his constituents. The turn the affair takes may give some indication of the minister's future political intentions.

Complete details of the winter port business during the past winter show that the exports were 222,335 tons. The best previous winter was that of 1899-1900, when they totalled 193,466 tons. The imports were 54,122 tons, and the best previous winter, 1901-2, they were 35,694. This shows a gratifying increase all round. In fact, the business was as big as is possible under existing conditions, and only when new wharves are built here can it be exceeded. The grain shipments totalled 4,982,400 bushels, an increase of 636,457 bushels over the best previous year. ***

St. John, N.B., 19th May, 1903.

BRITISH TRADE ENQUIRIES ABOUT CANADA.

Some weeks ago we had occasion to write to the curator of the Canadian Section of the Imperial Institute, Mr. Harrison Watson, for the names of certain firms which had made enquiry at his office for names of Canadian firms in different lines of trade. And we asked him why, in several of his circulars, kindly forwarded to us weekly, (and published by us under the head of "Trade Opportunities,") the names of some applicants were not forwarded, according to custom. We had had enquiry for the names of these very firms from Canadian merchants.

Mr. Harrison replies on 5th May, that when no wish to the contrary is expressed, he indicates the name of the firm making the enquiry. "There have, however, always been a certain number of enquiries from firms who ask that their application shall be treated as confidential, and this proportion has increased since this office has been acting in conjunction with the Department of the Board of Trade, for a number of persons desiring information about Canadian trade matters are referred to me by that body. There are generally reasons for withholding the address, and in such cases if you would send me the name of your enquirer, which should be accompanied by the usual references, I will at once hand same over to the people making the enquiry, or the enquirer could write to this office direct." It appears that complaints have been made by English firms that advertising agents and persons of absolutely no status have taken advantage of the courtesy of the press in which commercial enquiries were published, to obtain the name and address of British houses making enquiries, and to cause them a good deal of trouble to no purpose. We can quite understand that when a firm makes the request that its enquiry shall be treated with confidence, and only referred to reputable firms actually interested in the trade covered by the M. T. enquiry, the Institute must as far as is practicable adhere to such wishes.

I have on hand applications from numerous Canadian firms who seek agencies of various kinds, says Mr. Watson; "However, anything calculated to promote and develop Canadian trade deserves encouragement, and I have often found the result of the publicity kindly given by the Canadian press has been to bring in applications from firms sometimes previously unknown to me or firms whom I had not previously known as being interested in export."

His letter concludes by suggesting that any of our readers who wish to develop either export or import trade, by being placed in touch with buyers of goods or firms seeking agents, might benefit by addressing the Canadian Section of the Imperial Institute, London, S. W.

POWER FROM NIAGARA FALLS.

In the report for 1902, of the commissioners for the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park, some interesting considerations are given regarding the charges of vandalism in the treatment of the scenic features of the Park and Falls, and it is shown how in many ways these have been improved of late years. The report goes into detail as to the generation of electricity by the various companies having franchises. It is shown that franchises have been granted for the right to use the waters of the River Niagara within the park to generate a maximum of 375,000 horse-power, namely:—

	H. P.
Canadian Niagara Power Company	100,000
Ontario Power Company	150,000
The Toronto & Niagara Power Company....	125,000
	375,000

In addition, the Ontario Power Co. has the right to take waters from the Welland river, leading through the park, for 125,000 horse-power. If all the franchises are operated to their full capacity, the enormous quantity of 500,000 horse-power will some day be generated on the Canadian side of the river. The works of the various companies are now in active operation and over one thousand men are employed. One very interesting feature is the report of Mr. I. Randolph, the Chicago hydraulic engineer, who was employed by the commissioners to enquire into the remaining power sites at the Falls. That gentleman is very emphatic in the statement that there are still most valuable sites remaining, both above and below the falls, which can be operated at about the same cost as the franchises already granted. This, therefore, sets at rest the opinion sometimes expressed, that the granting of the concessions already made has exhausted the field for power development at Niagara Falls, and that municipalities and other consumers of electric power will, for all time, be at the mercy of a possible combine of the licensed companies. The commissioners, however, are of the opinion that further rights should not be granted until it is shown that a combination having for its object an undue increase in the cost of power is either possible or probable. A large proportion of the good accomplished by the commission has been without a doubt due to the energetic efforts of Mr. Langmuir, of Toronto, and the Ontario Government, in recognition of this fact, have, we are pleased to note, voted him an honorarium of \$5,000.

A LETTER FROM QUEENSLAND.

Since my last advices were forwarded business has continued very quiet in the whole of Australia, due to the prolonged drought through which we have been passing. Merchants on the whole are compelled to reduce their orders from England, the Continent, and U. S. A., because the volume of business is by far much less than is customary. I am glad to write stating that imports from Canada have shown a material increase, which is a very good sign of the times.

The advantage of an influential journal such as yours undoubtedly is, is that it tends to inform the outside world what a prosperous country Canada is. The cablegrams published in our newspapers here inform us almost every other day of the wonderful strides Canada is making in the commercial world. Your increase in population by immigration sounds simply marvelous, but then of course, the advantage you have through regular seasons gives you a great impetus over Australia.

I am very pleased to report that the much talked of drought has almost completely broken up, only one or two parts of the country not getting a plentiful supply of rain. The towns on the coast of Queensland have all more or less received a good downfall of rain. Townsville in the north, about 2½ days' steaming by water, north of Brisbane, was devastated by a disastrous cyclone in March, which almost wrecked the whole town. Over a dozen lives were lost, mainly through the collapse of a ward of the hospital. The extent