

**CANADIAN TRADE RELATIONS WITH GERMANY.**

The report comes from Ottawa that the Dominion Government will follow up its trade treaty with France by an effort to arrive at more satisfactory commercial arrangements with Germany also. As is generally known, there have not been lacking semi-official overtures which seem to indicate that Canadian commissioners to Berlin would be met with half way in this important matter. During the past few years a species of commercial warfare has been waged between the two countries; and mutual trade has naturally languished. Even so, Germany ranks third among European countries in aggregate trade with Canada. This is apparent from the following comparative statement for the nine-month fiscal year ending March 31 last:

	Exports to	Imports from
Great Britain.....	\$105,135,801	\$64,581,379
France.....	1,409,572	6,699,412
Germany.....	1,066,605	5,474,908
Belgium.....	1,857,958	1,695,179

Turning back the records to 1903, before the two countries had their commercial falling-out, it is seen that the total trade between Canada and Germany was well over \$14,000,000. So that, while our trade with other important European nations has been increasing, special circumstances have cut down our annual transactions with Germany by nearly one-half. That there would have been considerable growth under normal conditions seems evident from the fact that the decade ending 1903 brought more than a trebling of German-Canadian trade.

It is of interest in this connection to call to mind the fact that last spring the United States modified its tariff attitude towards Germany in certain practical respects; also that it will at the next session of congress take up the matter of a reciprocity treaty. During the past fortnight, the Bureau of Statistics published at Washington the figures relating to German-American trade since the tariff concessions went into effect on July 1 last. The statistics indicate that imports from Germany for the months of July, August and September increased \$5,566,042 over the imports for the corresponding three months last year, and that exports from the United States to Germany for the same period increased \$4,279,274 over those of July, August and September last year. In tabular form, the showing is as follows:

	U.S. Imports from Germany.	U.S. Exports to Germany.
July, August and Sept. 1906.....	\$38,278,453	\$46,028,390
1907.....	43,844,495	50,307,064

The aggregate trade of the German Empire with all foreign countries in 1906 was three and one-quarter billion dollars; an amount second only to Great Britain's total of four and three-quarter billions—the United States coming third with something over three billions. The Star, of Toronto, in commenting upon this fact and its bearing upon

prospective Canadian trade, expresses the view that with reasonable tariff regulations in force in both countries, the Dominion would undoubtedly have a considerable share in the trade which Germany carries on. "The Germans," the article goes on to say, "with their swelling population and limited area, are obliged to import vast quantities of the sort of foodstuffs of which Canada has a constantly growing surplus—beef, breadstuffs, and apples. Under existing conditions the sale of such commodities in that market is practically impossible. Canada's cattle going to Germany would have to face a duty of at least \$1.95 per hundred pounds; barley a tax of not less than 76 cents per hundred pounds; flour of \$2.03 per cwt., and apples of \$1.50 per barrel. With a moderate revenue tariff in force at German ports, our exports thereto would advance by leaps and bounds. Canada's commercial interests will be greatly benefited if, as there is reason to hope, the mission to be undertaken next summer is crowned with success."

There are those who will consider The Star's outlook as failing to take into account all aspects of commercial conditions. But there seems no reason to doubt that German-Canadian trade would be quickened by a reciprocal liberalizing of tariff regulations. The securing of this with due regard to various industries and interests is, of course, a matter for careful consideration. In the case of the United States, this much seems certain: that a slight modifying of irksome conditions has given a decided impetus to German trade. Although the increase in exports has not quite kept pace with the growth of imports, the statistics are far from bearing out the recent declaration of Mr. Wilbur F. Wakeman (secretary of the American Protective League), that the exportation from Germany to the United States of competitive products had about doubled since the administrative concessions went into effect. Nevertheless those opposed, as will as those favoring a general reciprocity treaty between the United States and Germany, will doubtless find an abundance of statistical munitions of war in the figures compiled and published by the Government. The details of the statistics published show that since the administrative concessions went into effect Germany has been sending the United States more coal-tar colors and dyes, cotton cloths, cotton knit goods, precious stones, chinaware, kid gloves, paper, manufactures, silk, toys, wines and wood pulp, while America has been sending to Germany more agricultural implements, corn, wheat, wheat flour, clocks and watches, copper ingots, bar plates, lard, lubricating oil, tobacco, and canned beef.

In Canada, too, the study of the Washington Bureau's report should prove of interest—and practical utility as well—in discussing the details of any tariff arrangement that may be negotiated with Germany.