

Germany and Belgium, as upon the abrogation of these treaties the indirect preference to the other countries will cease. These treaties will soon be out of the way and then there will be nothing to interfere with preferential trade within the empire.

The Hudson's Bay Co.

London, July 12.—A general court of the governor and company of adventurers of England, trading into Hudson's Bay, was held at the City Terminus hotel, Cannon street, today, when the report from the governor and committee was laid before the shareholders. The governor, Lord Strathcona, in submitting to the proprietors the annual accounts stated that the profits amounting to £69,373 7s. 9d., to which is to be added the sum of £21,999, 12s. 1d., brought forward from last year, making a total of £91,372, 19s. 10d., and a dividend of 18s per share equal to 5 per cent, will be paid for the year ending 31st May, 1898, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £26,372, 19s. 10d. Lord Strathcona also stated that the collection of furs for the outfit dealt with in the accounts was smaller than of the preceding outfit, but a considerable improvement in the prices realized for many descriptions at the March sales more than compensated for the diminished quantities. With reference to the general trade of the company, it was mentioned that the business at many of the company's stores has been advantageously affected by the improved state of trade in Canada, and the developments in British Columbia and the Yukon district, owing to the recent gold discoveries, but this will enter into the next accounts to be presented to the shareholders. Lord Strathcona added that the board, after full consideration and consultation with the commissioner, who came to England in February last, have taken measures to establish new posts and to increase the river steamboat accommodation on the route to the mines, and generally, to secure to the company as large a proportion as possible of the new business arising from these and other developments. The land accounts show that the receipts for instalments, interest, rents, etc., were better than last year, being £25,933, 17s. 4d., as against £21,961, 1s. 4d. Farm land sales amount to 37,923 acres for \$183,890, averaging \$4.85 per acre, as compared with 10,784 acres for \$53,217, averaging \$4.94 per acre, the average price per acre again showing a slight decrease. An active demand both for farm lands and town lots has recently set in, owing to the improvement generally existing throughout the Northwest, and larger sales are now being made than for some time past. The Earl of Lichfield, deputy governor; and Mr. Alderman Vaughan-Morgan, retiring members of the board, were re-elected.

Canada's Growth.

The Mail and Empire quotes the following statistics of the growth of the Dominion since Confederation, compiled by Mr. Frank Yeich, as of interest on the thirtieth anniversary of the wedding of the provinces:

The Dominion of Canada is thirty years old. The 30th of June ends the first three decades of Confederation,

Canada's area is three and a half million square miles—one twelfth of the land area of the world. Over a million square miles are yet unexplored. Twenty-eight United Kingdoms and sixteen Germanys could be placed within its boundaries. Excluding Alaska, it is larger than the United States. It is nearly double Britain's Indian possessions, and larger than the Australian colonies. It is large enough to provide each member of its population with one and a quarter square miles.

Prince Edward Island is the baby province—2,000 square miles; British Columbia is the largest—382,000 square miles, with a 7,000 mile coast line. Canada has a 13,000 mile coast line.

Canada has a waterway of 2,384 miles from the St. Lawrence to the head of Lake Superior—one of the longest continuous stretches of inland navigation in the world.

Canada has a population of over five millions.

Canadians are a home-grown people. Four of the five millions (80 per cent) are Canadian born; half a million (10 per cent) were born under the British flag; only 157,000 (3 per cent) were foreign born.

Canada has 100,000 Indians—41,000 Protestants, 42,000 Roman Catholics, 17,000 pagans. Ten thousand Indian children are being educated in 285 schools, aided by the government with \$300,000 a year.

Nearly two million (41 per cent) are Roman Catholics; 85,000 (17 per cent) Methodists; 750,000 (15 per cent) Presbyterians; 650,000 (13 per cent) Church of England.

Canada has one and a quarter million square miles of forest. Her forest production per last census was eighty million, nearly 75 per cent of British Columbia and 50 per cent of Ontario is woodland.

CANADA'S PRODUCE.

Canada's agricultural exports have reached \$50,000,000. Cheese alone amounted to nearly \$15,000,000, supplying Great Britain with two-thirds of all the cheese she imports. Canada produced sixty million bushels of wheat in 1897. She has the largest wheat field in the world—900 miles long, 300 miles wide. Acres of land under cultivation in Canada, 28,000,000. Canada produced about fifteen bushels of wheat per acre in 1897. Forty-five per cent of Canadians are engaged in agricultural pursuits. Agricultural exports in 1868, about fifteen bushels of wheat per \$20,000,000; in 1897, \$50,000,000.

Canada's fisheries yield her \$20,000,000 a year. They employ 70,000 men. The plant is worth \$10,000,000. Nova Scotia comes first as a fishery province, New Brunswick second, British Columbia third.

Canada's mines produced \$30,000,000 in 1897, viz.: Gold, \$6,190,000; silver, \$3,332,000; copper, lead and nickel, about a million and a half each; coal, \$7,285,000 (four million tons). Her coal-bearing area is 100,000 square miles. Fifteen thousand miners all told are employed. British Columbia has produced \$60,000,000 of gold in forty years. Nova Scotia's forty mines have produced \$12,000,000.

Canada's Yukon gold fields include an area of 125,000 square miles. The estimated yield for 1898 is from ten to twenty millions.

TRADE AND FINANCE.

Canada's total volume of trade has risen from \$181,000,000 in 1867 to \$257,000,000 in 1897. Of this latter sum, \$111,000,000 was transacted with the United States, and \$106,000,000 with Great Britain.

Canada's trade is rapidly increasing. The calendar year of 1897 showed an increase of \$52,000,000 of both exports and imports.

Canada's income is about \$37,000,000 a year.

Canada's public debt has increased from 75,000,000 in 1867 to nearly 260,000,000 in 1897, or \$50 a head. Yearly interest on public debt \$10,000,000. Taxation (customs and excise) \$5.42 per head, as compared with \$10.50 of the United Kingdom, and \$14.72 of Australia.

Canada's inter-provincial trade has jumped from \$1,000,000 in 1867 to \$113,000,000.

Canada's railways: In 1868, 2,278 miles; in 1898, 16,000 miles—3,000 more than Australia. There are 141 railways and 81 controlling companies. Paid up capital, nearly a billion. Gross earnings \$52,000,000; expenses \$35,000,000; passenger traffic \$16,000,000; and freight traffic \$25,000,000 tons.

Canada has spent over \$200,000,000 on railways, contributed from the national exchequer, from provinces, and from municipalities.

The Canadian Pacific railway is 6,314 miles, 1,400 longer than the great Siberian railway, as planned, to cost 75 millions. Canada gave the C. P. R. 63 millions.

The Grand Trunk railway is 3,162 miles long; the government railways aggregate 1,388 miles.

Canada has 72 miles of canals, costing \$83,789,000 for construction, enlargement and maintenance, or over a million a mile.

Canada had 425 lighthouses and light stations in 1867; it has 1,400 now.

Canada has 25,000 miles of telegraph line, more than either Italy, Spain or Turkey, and 60,000 miles of wire.

Canada has a militia force of nearly 40,000 including 700 Mounted Police in the Northwest.

Canada's post offices numbered 2,333 in 1867, and 9,191 in 1897. Letters and post cards carried in 1897, 155 millions; papers, packages, etc., 27 millions.

BANKS AND CAPITAL.

Canada has increased her post office savings banks to 753, in which 120,000 persons have on deposit 30 millions, and in government savings banks 18 millions, or 48 millions in all—about \$10 per head.

Canada's chartered banks hold 180 millions on deposit. Bank note circulation has risen from 9 millions in 1867 to 30 millions; bank capital aggregates 61 millions.

Canada's life assurance companies have 460 millions of insurance in force, divided among 31 life companies, and 10 assessment companies; 25 millions are on deposit with the government for protection of policy holders.

Canada has 7,279 registered vessels, with a gross tonnage of 783,299 tons, valued at 25 millions.

Canada stands fourth among the maritime nations in tonnage of shipping owned and registered in the country.

Canada has a high-grade public school system. It has 17,000 schools, with a million pupils. It has 54 universities and colleges, with 11,000 students enrolled. Seventy per cent of all the people of all ages can read; 80 per cent of all adults can write.

Canada is planning big things for the future; settlement of the great Northwest, development of the mineral and other resources, deepening of the canals, improvement of transportation inland and on the oceans, extension of trade with the mother country.

Canada took a step forward and upward in the Jubilee year. She is now the junior member in the well known firm of John Bull & Co.

Canada has made great strides during her first thirty years of Confederation. Who is prophetic enough to forecast the next thirty years of progress and prosperity?

Jean Claustre, the pioneer, and still one of the leading merchants of Maple Creek, was in Winnipeg this week attending the fair, and did not forget to call on The Commercial. Mr. Claustre reports everything is prosperous, and the ranchers in the neighborhood are doing well. The first shipments of range sheep and cattle to arrive in Winnipeg this season came from Maple Creek. Mr. Claustre says sheep and cattle are being shipped to the Crow's Nest railway construction, to other British Columbia points and even to the Klondike from Maple Creek.