

## FINANCIAL TIMES

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THE YEAR \$2.00**Need of Lumber Trade Preference with Australia****Opportune Time for British Columbia to Push Its Claims for Consideration—Benefit to Us and the Dominion as a Whole Would Accrue.**

On September 20th to 23rd a Royal Commission on Inter-Empire trade will sit in Vancouver to discuss ways and means of extending this trade. One of the members of this Commission is the Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Hon. Sir George E. Foster. The business interests of British Columbia have a matter very near to their hearts that should be brought to the attention of the Commission while here and enforced by very strong representation by the business interests of the Province. The subject is preferential trade with Australia on lumber.

In our issue of December 19, 1914, we presented to our readers a very strong case in an article on this subject contributed by Mr. E. W. Hamber, a prominent British Columbia lumberman. It will be recalled that shortly after Sir George Foster became Minister of Trade and Commerce he made a trip to Australia in the interests of Dominion trade with that Commonwealth and succeeded in making certain provisional arrangements with the Government of the day in Australia, subject to legislation by both Governments. Shortly after he arrived back in Canada the Australian Government with whom he had conducted the negotiations went out of power, and consequently the matter came to nothing. Two years later the same Government was back in power and the time seemed opportune to re-open the question. To bring this matter again to public attention and that of the Dominion Government, we presented the above mentioned article. Again nothing came of it. Now that the Royal Commission will be on the ground we regard the time as very appropriate for pushing forward the claims of British Columbia and the well-being of one of its chief industries to the consideration of the Dominion Government.

The appositeness of Mr. Hamber's article is such that we take the liberty of presenting its contents in part again to our readers. Since the article was written considerable has been done on the British Columbia export problem. Mr. MacMillan, Chief Forester of the Province, has been

appointed special trade Commissioner to investigate the lumber markets of the world. He has reported on many of those markets, although not as yet on the market in which we are most interested, namely, Australia. The Provincial Government at the last session instituted a programme of shipbuilding, and several ships are on the ways and by spring will be in commission. While not expressly stated, these vessels are designed for lumber carriers and their natural trade route would be to Australia. A step forward is taken in the matter of supplying deficient tonnage from British Columbia ports to Australian ports.

The article follows:—

"Never has there been a time when the different Dominions of our Empire have felt the need of unity, and a permanent policy of assisting each other, more than the present. To establish a united Empire within which to build up the self-supporting trade within the Empire, the import requirements of one portion to be filled by the export offerings of another portion, to their mutual benefit and to the enrichment of the whole, should be the earnest endeavour of our scattered Dominions.

"The idea is not one of party politics, but belongs to much broader lines — a world-wide Imperial preference cementing more surely than anything a united Empire.

"I propose only to endeavour to show, in as concise a manner as possible, the benefits that would accrue to British Columbia in particular, and to Canadian trade generally, through a preference with Australia in respect to their importations of lumber, and

only hope that it will lead others to think and lend their assistance to the furtherance of this important matter. The welfare of this particular industry is, as we all must admit, of great importance to British Columbia. To obtain larger revenues for our Province, to keep the lumber mills busy operating full time, to increase the payrolls, and, by large export trade, to bring vessels to our ports—our merchants thereby securing the trade that each vessel would occasion in the nature of supplies, and many other items,—is a matter which should have our immediate and earnest consideration; and as our Provincial Government may be almost called joint owners in the standing timber of the Province, it is materially in their interests to lend their co-operation.

On another page is the official announcement of the Dominion Government Second War Loan.

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