

Great Britain alone buys more from the United States than all the continental nations of Europe combined, the proportion being, Great Britain 50.5 per cent., and all the rest of Europe 49.5 per cent. Canada buys more from the States than any other country except Great Britain and Germany, her purchases of American goods being larger than France and Belgium combined, more than all Asia, Africa and Oceanica, more than 3 times as much as all South America, and amount to more than 20 per cent. of the United States foreign trade outside the British Empire.

All trade is presumed to be more or less profitable, buying as well as selling, but, inasmuch as a large quantity of the goods sent from the United States to this country might be produced in Canada, thus utilizing and fructifying our native supplies of capital and labour, the enormous discrepancy between our purchases of American goods and their purchases of Canadian goods is worthy of grave consideration.

PROMINENT TOPICS.

The honours conferred on Canadians this year are not those generally anticipated, nor are they universally approved. They are officially announced as follows:—

The King has been graciously pleased to approve the following honours on the occasion of His Majesty's birthday:

To be Companions of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Col. Louis Felix Pinault, Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence.

Monsieur Louis Philippe Hebert, sculptor, Montreal.

To be Companions of the Imperial Service Order: Robt. Bell, M.D., LL.D., Acting Director Geological Survey, Ottawa.

Edwin Gilpin, Deputy Minister of Public Works, Nova Scotia.

John George Hodgins, librarian to the Government of Ontario.

David Ewart, chief architect Public Works Department, Ottawa.

Lt-Col. Henry Robt. Smith, sergeant-at-arms House of Commons, Ottawa.

Lt-Col. Acheson Gosford Irvine, warden of Manitoba Penitentiary.

John Uriah Gregory, agent Department Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa.

The Imperial Service Medal has been granted to eight of the lockmen engaged on the Welland, Beauharnois and Rideau Canals.

* * * *

A new nation being born in a day is a rare event. It occurred last week by the Panama section of Colombia, setting up for itself as an independent Republic. That region is a hot bed of revolutions, governments there have as uncertain a tenour of power as shad flies have of life. The breaking away

from Colombia and establishing an independent State by a body of revolutionists was accomplished without bloodshed, quite after the style such incidents are represented in comic opera. Having started this new nation, notice was sent to the United States. The new born State was at once recognized, with a celerity indeed so contrary to diplomatic usage as to convey the impression that the Panama revolution, which led to severance from Colombia, was a movement anticipated with favour, if not aided by the American authorities. The situation affects the prospects of the projected Isthmian canal, the building of which will be greatly helped by the territory through which it will pass, being in the hands of a Government that, it is expected, will be controlled from Washington.

* * * *

There seems no reason to doubt that the Panama independence movement was fostered by the United States, just as was the rebellion in Cuba that led to the ejection of Spain in the same way that Colombia has been ejected from Panama. The president promptly notified the Colombian Government that no interference would be tolerated with the new Republic which had broken away from the parent State. Of course, this was an act of war, but Colombia has to submit, being too weak to resist the United States. The incident is a revelation as to the contempt entertained at Washington for national governments and international etiquette when they are in the way of the aggressive policy of the United States.

* * * *

By the marriage of the Duke of Roxburghe to Miss Goelet, a few millions will be added to the sum that has been transferred from the United States to Great Britain, owing to wealthy American brides, and their bulky purses being carried off by British husbands. This is estimated to aggregate \$260,000,000. Considering the enormous sum that has been frequently paid in the United States for a share in a British title, it is highly inconsistent for our neighbours to the South to affect to despise these "monarchical gewgaws," as one journal styles a title of nobility. The Duke must have regarded the scene at the wedding as revolting, especially the theatrical transformation of the House of God into the likeness of a pagan temple dedicated to the least respectable member of the heathen Pantheon. Transmogrifying a church consecrated to the worship of Jesus Christ, into a vast Conservatory, at an enormous cost, is an act bordering upon profanity.

* * * *

When she gets away from the fetid atmosphere of vulgar ostentation in New York, into the upper, and sweeter air of life in the old land, the new Duchess will also experience the shock of a social revelation. Let us hope she will prove worthy of her rank, and the Duke be, what his title implies, a "leader" in devotion to public interests, and a valiant soldier in all good causes.

* * * *

The Directors of the Royal Victoria Life Insurance Company have been fortunate in securing Mr. George Caverhill, of Caverhill, Learmont & Co., as a colleague, his election to a seat on the Board having