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A Permanent International Tribunal.

The conference which has been in session at Washington, for the purpose of taking such action as may be necessary to bring about the creation of a permanent international arbitration tribunal, is made up of leading and representative men from all parts of the country.

The list of those in Boston who were invited to come to this gathering comprised the names of some hundred or more who would be everywhere recognized as representing the intelligence, public spirit and conscience of our city, as well as to quite a degree its commercial interests, and we have every reason for believing that those from the other centres of population who were invited and who were present at this gathering were equally representative of the best type of American citizenship.

These gentlemen have not engaged in any chimerical enterprise, even though the project that they are endeavoring to advance is a novel one. No doubt those who insisted in former days that the individual, instead of seeking to revenge himself on the one whom he believed had wronged him should secure justice through an appeal to courts of law, were looked upon by many as theoretical innovators.

The great step from darkness toward the light which can be taken as the first movement in a general improvement will be the establishment of a permanent international tribunal to adjust the differences which may arise between the two great nations of the English-speaking race. This is in some respects, though not in others, an easier problem to solve than would be an agreement made between people having different languages and different political, social and religious conditions, all of which engender and increase national hostility. No doubt, the close business intercourse that brings the English and the American people together is also the cause of a great many differences of opinion, rivalry and contentions; but these make it all the more desirable that some permanent form of adjudication should be established.

Naturally those we have the most to do with are those with whom we are most likely to quarrel. We have in the city of Boston a certain degree of trade rivalry with New York city and its people in respect to a large number of our trade interests, but we have no jealousy, amounting at times to hostility, for San Francisco, for the reason that our business intercourse with San Francisco is relatively so slight and its influence upon our well-being is so infinitesimal that no ground is given for aroused feelings.

If our republic was organized after the manner of the republics of Greece we should probably be at war with New York in much the same way that Athens was at war with

Sparta; but modern methods make it evident that we can get along much better with our nearest neighbor and keenest trade rival by a peaceful adjustment of differences than by any form of force.

For reasons kindred to those we have just given, while the establishment of an international tribunal for arbitrating differences that might arise between, say the United States and the kingdom of Roumania, might be arranged, for the reason that there would hardly be once in a decade of years that the least difference would exist, the real merit of the proposed method would be brought out by putting it in force among those who, beside common race, tongue, creed, political, and to quite a degree social, institutions have also to an exceptional extent, common trade interests. We have every reason for believing that the reforms which the conference at Washington has been organized to promote is one which will be taken up and supported by many thousands of the best men and women of Great Britain.—Boston Herald.

Montreal Grocery Market.

There has been no change in the situation of the sugar market. The foreign markets for beet are somewhat irregular at present and prices fluctuate according to the weather report. The demand for refined here continues slow and the market is very quiet and steady. The prospects, however, for the future are encouraging as there is every indication for one of the largest crops of fruit this season that the country has had for the past twenty-five years, and if nothing happens to injure it a brisk demand for sugar is looked for later on as stocks throughout the country in second hands are very small and orders now are only for small lots to fill actual wants. We quote: Granulated at 48c in 250-barrel lots and over; 4 11-16c in 10 1-barrel lots, and 43c in smaller quantities. Yellows range from 34 to 44c, as to quality, at the factory.

In syrup, business has also been quiet and the market is without any new feature of note. The stock in refiners' hands is small and prices rule firm at 14 to 22c per lb, as to quality at the factory.

There was no change in the molasses market, business being very quiet and prices about steady. New crop Barbadoes in round lots is offering to arrive at 29c, Porto Rico on spot at 31c, and Antigua at 27c.

The demand for rice has been fair and the market rules moderately active, with a good business for this season at steady prices. We quote: Japan standard, \$1.25 to \$1.40; crystal Japan \$1.75 to \$5; standard B. \$3.45; Patna \$1.25 to \$5; and Carolina at \$6.50 to \$7.50.

In spices business has continued quiet and

little improvement is looked forward to as jobbers generally have ample supplies on hand. The following quotations are what jobbers can buy at only: Penang black pepper 6 to 74c; white pepper 10 to 124c; cloves 74 to 9c; cassia 84 to 94c; nutmegs 60 to 90c; and Jamaica ginger 154 to 184c.

The market for coffee has ruled quiet, the demand being only for small lots to fill actual requirements at steady prices. We quote: Maracaibo at 174 to 18c; Rico 16 to 174c; Java 23 to 25c; and Mocha 23 to 26c.

During the past week a little more business has been done in teas there being a demand for Congous and low grade Japans, and some fair sized lots have changed hands. A lot of 200 half-chests of Congous sold at 12 to 18c, and several lots of low grade Japans at about 11c. In regard to the new crop no official advices have been received yet, outside of a cable which stated that the shipments this season to date are about 10,000 piculs less than the corresponding time last year.—Gazette, May 17.

900 Tons of Electrical Machinery.

The Canadian General Electric Co. have just concluded some of the largest contracts for electrical apparatus ever awarded in any country. They have sold to the Lachine Rapids Hydraulic and Lind Company, of which Senator B. Ireland, of Montreal, is president, twelve three-phase, generators of one thousand horse power each; this being the second largest power transmission contract in the world.

A contract has also been made within the last week with the Montreal Street Railway Company for a two thousand horse-power generator, this being the twelfth of its size manufactured, and making a total of eight thousand horse-power of generators made by the Canadian General Electric Co. for the Montreal Street Railway, and five thousand for the Toronto Railway.

Contracts for the equipment of the London Street Railway, Halifax Street Railway, Hamilton Radial Railway, Moncton Street Railway, Hull and Aylmer Railway, Cornwall Street Railway, etc., have been closed recently, in addition to large orders for increased equipment for the Toronto Railway, Montreal Street Railway, Vancouver, B.C., Street Railway, and Victoria, B. C., Street Railway.

The sale of electric lighting apparatus during the past few months has exceeded all previous records; the value of contracts under way by this Canadian company exceeding four hundred thousand dollars.

A. A. Atkinson, lately in the grain trade at Winnipeg, has returned from Toronto, where he has been for some months.