

TRADE REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS BY ORDER-IN-COUNCIL MUST BE ABOLISHED.

(Concluded from Page 4.)

or into the commercial life of Canada. Our boast is that our courts in Canada are above suspicion, and for this we all rejoice, because we know that the poorest citizens, when the evidence is presented, have the same equal chance as those of the greatest wealth. The people, however, make the laws; the duty of the courts is to administer them. Let us make laws that are worthy and sane, and which will not reflect upon the good judgment of the people of Canada, and which do not discriminate as between one class and another.

What are the powers under this famous Order? Can the Minister of Labour, the municipal committee, the "Fair Price Committee" or the Canada Food Board, order that retail merchants shall cease doing business, or do business at a loss, or do the findings of these various bodies have to go before the Attorney-General of the Province first before any drastic action is taken? On this subject this famous Order leaves us in doubt, and no one seems capable of explaining its mysterious meaning. Is it reasonable to expect that intelligent business men will remain under legislation of this character very long without making a vigorous protest? We know that they have protested, and we shall keep on protesting as an Association of Retail Merchants, and we will make every effort in our power to have it abolished. The old Act, Section 498, of the Criminal Code, was an unnecessary and complicated piece of meddlesome legislation, but when it is camouflaged by an Order-in-Council, in our opinion, it becomes ridiculous.

It must be made quite clear that those who have their money invested in retail stores and stocks, and in wholesome premises, and in manufacturing plants in Canada are among the best citizens and friends that Canada possesses. They are helping to extend its trade and commerce, and building up the cities, towns and villages of Canada, and they contribute more largely than any other class toward business taxes, and all other taxes, and contributions that are required, and they should, at least, be consulted before drastic and unworkable Orders-in-Council of

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

(Concluded from Page 5.)

salt and petroleum are known to exist in the Republic, and mining activity had been followed on a limited scale for some time, there has never been any thorough or systematic investigation of those mineral resources, and the future of this phase of the country's development remains to be determined.

Since American occupation and the consequent growth of the American colony, there has been a steady demand for improvements in living conditions. There are nine towns in which local telephone systems are in operation, and there is an inter-town system owned by the government connecting twenty-one towns and thirty-four villages, with 854 miles of lines in operation and 256 miles additional to be erected in the near future. The telephone systems are equipped with American material throughout. In addition there are 311 miles of telegraph lines.

Installation of ice plants is another evidence of improvement, every town of 2,500 inhabitants or over in the Puerto Plata consular district having its own plant. Electric light is now available in Puerto Plata, San Pedro de Macoris and Santo Domingo City, and that other sign of modern progress—the automobile is steadily gaining a larger foothold. Further expansion in this phase of the country's growth awaits only highway improvement.

Tranquility of political conditions, which followed American occupation, has brought business stability and an encouraging prosperity which promises much for the future. As a rule the Dominican takes pride in his personal appearance and is generally well-dressed and well-shod. He evinces a desire for the conveniences and refinements of modern living and promises to become an excellent and discerning buyer of the products of the manufacturers of the United States.

the above character are placed on the Statute Books.

In reviewing this Order-in-Council, it may appear to some that the comments made upon it are too drastic and too severe, but experience has taught us that if we require reforms in any movement, or amendments to any Act, that the case must be stated as it exists, without fear and without favour.

Climatic conditions of the Republic naturally occupy an important place in considering our future business relations with its people. Although a tropical country, the climate is greatly modified by the altitude of the interior. The mountains of the island contain the highest peak in the West Indies, Mt. Loma Tina, with an altitude of 10,300 feet. The trade winds, which blow almost continuously throughout the day, and the land breeze from the mountains at night temper the heat and make physical living conditions generally agreeable. While there are two seasons, the wet and dry, the former does not impose continuous rain.

Adequate steamship service, which will bring the island into more frequent contact with the outside world, is the pressing need of the Republic. Such transport facilities will widen the market for Dominican produce and stimulate effort of the island's agriculturalists to meet the demand. There will come in consequence added prosperity, with the freer expenditure of money on the improvement of roads and other public utilities, development of natural resources and a widening demand for the facilities and refinements of modern living.

SIBERIAN TRADE.

At the request of Right Hon. Sir George E. Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. John Findlay, a British engineer, who has been in business in Siberia for some years and is thoroughly familiar with Siberian conditions, has come to Canada for the purpose of making himself acquainted with Canadian industrial conditions preparatory to acting on the Canadian Economic Commission to Siberia. Mr. John Findlay's knowledge of Siberia will be of great value to the Canadian members of the commission. He is now calling on Canadian manufacturers of lines which he thinks will be in immediate demand in Siberia. Any Canadian manufacturer who wishes to know Mr. Findlay's opinion regarding the suitability of his products for the Siberian market may communicate with the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa. Mr. Findlay says that there has been a very great increase in the population of Siberia since the Russian revolution and he believes that the growth of population will be still greater in the future.

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