

or trails were neither in order for sleighing nor for wheeled vehicles. They were partly snow, partly ice, partly water and partly mud. It was no easy matter to transport heavy materials—rations, forage and ammunition—in such circumstances. The country through which the troops had to march, at that time of year, yielded nothing eatable for man or beast. By the time a team load reached its destination, it was nearly all consumed by the horses hauling it, and the driver in charge. Yet we find that the troops, although they were a little delayed on account of waiting for supplies, never wanted for food. At times they had not all they wanted, or that they should have had. Sugar and such articles were frequently scarce, but, on the whole, there was no actual want of sustenance, no pinching of the necessities of life. This we think will compare very favorably with the experience of other armies, even where they have a regularly organized commissariat service.

At the same time this leads us to the conclusion that it would be highly advisable that a regular commissariat service should be established in connection with the Canadian Militia. The expense to the country of the establishment of such a service would be infinitesimal in comparison to the saving which would be effected in any future expedition in which our volunteers may be engaged. Our Militia have proved that they are a most effective service, and no mere ornaments, and it will be only true economy to have them equipped, furnished and organized in such a manner as will enable the work they may have to accomplish to be carried out with as much efficiency and expedition, and at as small a cost as possible. This is a matter which should be acted on by the Government without delay.

CANADIAN TRADE WITH THE OLD COUNTRY.

In our last issue we quoted, and commented upon some of the proceedings at a most important meeting of the London Chamber of Commerce, held on 24th June last, for the formation of a Trade Section to represent the commercial interests of Canada in connection with that Chamber. After Mr. Tritton, the President of the Chamber, had stated the object of the meeting to be the establishment of a Trade Section for Canada, similar to those sections already formed for West Africa, South Africa and Australia, Sir Charles

Tupper, the High Commissioner in England, for the Dominion, gave some very instructive and important information in detail of the extent, capabilities and opportunities for development and investment of Canada, and particularly of the great Northwest. In addition to the extracts from Sir Charles' speech which we gave our readers last week, we give the following additional extract.—

Sir Charles Tupper said, I now come to another question of great interest to commercial men in this country, that is, bankruptcy law reform. I may say that during the last summer a delegation from the Associated Chambers of Commerce waited upon Sir John Macdonald, and myself, in regard to the subject. They received assurances from Sir John that the subject should receive the early and careful consideration of the Government. I made the admission, and it was a very great admission to make, that the Government of Canada, of which I was a member at the time, were defeated in an effort to retain the bankruptcy law on the statute book, and I pointed out some of the causes which had made it impossible for the Government to withstand the very widespread hostility aroused on this question, but I need not detain you by going into the subject. At the opening of the present session of the Canadian Parliament, Sir John Macdonald put a paragraph into the speech delivered by Lord Lansdowne, pointing out the great importance of bringing the question before the House. A bill was introduced by the very able and talented member for Montreal, and the Government proposed to the House to refer that bill to a special committee selected from the best commercial men on both sides of the House, and that mode was adopted. As I have told you, the Government actually sustained a defeat in its effort to retain the bankruptcy law on the statute book, and they thought this the best means to carry out their object. That committee reported, and I shall be happy to place a copy of the bill as reported in the hands of the secretary (Mr. Kenric B. Murray) and I am inclined to believe that you will find it covers all the important features insisted on by the commercial men of this country (hear hear). The measure has since been made a Government bill, and I am quite certain that the Government will make every effort to carry it substantially through Parliament, and thus meet the very strong claims that the commercial men of this country have for an improvement in the Canadian bankruptcy law. * * *

I must apologize for having occupied so much of your valuable time on the present occasion, but can only say that it has been a great pleasure to me, as the representative of Canada, to have an opportunity of speaking to so many gentlemen feeling so deeply interested, as I know you all do, on the progress and prosperity of Canada, and to assure you—as I do assure you—that you will always receive from me the most hearty and cordial co-operation in everything that is calculated to deal with that important question—strengthening and increasing the development of the important commercial trade, which binds this—the great heart of the Empire—to that portion to which I have the honor of belonging. (Applause.) I will conclude by moving the first resolution, which is, "That a section representative of trading, commercial and shipping relations with the Dominion be formed in connection with the Chamber of Commerce and entitled the Canadian Trade Section." Sir Charles then resumed his seat amid applause.

Mr. Matthew Robins, in seconding the proposition, said:—It is of the most vital importance to the commercial interests of both countries that the movement so auspiciously inaugurated should be carried to a successful consummation (applause). I can corroborate the view expressed by Sir Charles, as to the necessity, which existed at the time, for the adoption of a protective policy by the Canadian Government. The abundant surplus manufactures which the United States can throw into the Canadian market at "slaughter" prices, would have the effect of stifling the operations in our own manufactures. I also agree with Sir Charles as to the importance of the stamp duty question. I shall shortly, I hope, have the honor of laying before him a representation on the matter.

The motion was then put to the meeting and carried nem. con.

Sir Charles Tupper I beg to propose the second resolution, which is, "That a working committee, representing the entire section, and consisting of twenty members, be appointed."

This proposition was duly seconded and unanimously agreed to.

By the proper and judicious working of this Canadian Trade Section of such an influential and important body as that of the London Chamber of Commerce, there is no doubt that a great benefit may and will ensue to the trade relations, and development between the Dominion and Great Britain. We shall watch with interest—as our readers will doubtless read the extracts we have given—the further steps which will be taken by the Canadian Section of the London Chamber of Commerce now formed.