

Idle Gossip On Busy Matters

THE United States sells Canada twenty-five dollars worth of goods every year for every man, woman and child in the country. Canada sells the United States on the same basis one dollar's worth per annum for every head of population. Thus the odds are twenty-five to one; but if you should ask the political economists to figure out in whose favour the odds are you would need to knock off for a day to become wise.

Moral: Never discuss the tariff question if you can get anything else. Religion is better.

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THE Manufacturers' Association will meet this year in Vancouver. The convention will be held in September. This is the first time the C.M.A. has crossed the continent to convene. Winnipeg has hitherto been the westward limit. Now watch the Vancouver papers to discover how it is that the manufacturing centre of the West is at Vancouver instead of Winnipeg. The manufacturers will be told some plain truths about the labour problem. Sir Wilfrid was told some of these truths the other day. He was able to switch the burden of proof off on the Empire. The C.M.A. may be able to do the same. They may be able to prove that it is in the interests of the distribution of labour over the Empire that labour be imported across the Pacific as freely as possible. Because India is, after all, part of the Empire—though it happens that Hindu labour is not now anything of a problem alongside the yellow and brown man from the northern parts of the Orient, which are not parts of the Empire, and it may be fervently hoped never will be. But it's a fine compliment to a really marvelous city on the Pacific that the entire organised manufacturing interests of the Dominion of Canada will camp in Vancouver this year.

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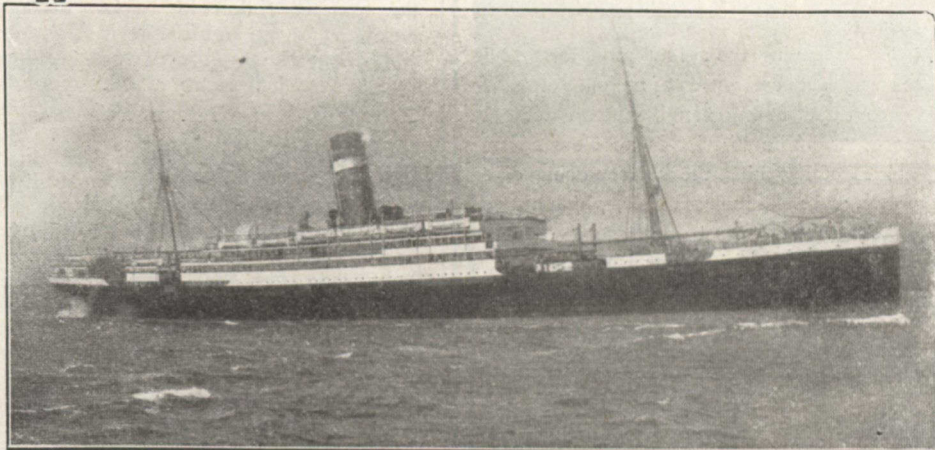
AT the same time the manufacturers will learn a good deal on this western trip. The East has been turning out goods for the West for a long while; and reading the newspapers to find out why the West is able to spend so many millions a year in buying what the East produces in its factories. Now the manufacturers will be able to see for themselves why it is so much better to be a farmer with a section of land and a few thousand bushels of wheat every year than a mere manufacturer who has to divvy up such a scandalous proportion of his profits to labour.

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THE Technical Education Commission are now on tour trying to determine what can be done to make the young men of Canada more proficient in doing things that require to be done in Canadian factories. It is to be hoped that the Commission will not fail to find out why it is that in any average gang of carpenters nowadays there isn't a man able to build a straight ordinary staircase. Also it might be well to find out why when a contractor is given a job of which nine-tenths of the cost is the labour upon which he gets a profit at so much per hour—three out of every four men on the job dawdle and soldier. Of course all men don't. But if the man who pays for the job desires to know what Longfellow meant when he wrote that pregnant line, "Art is long and time is fleeting"—let him stand for an hour and watch any given gang of men for whose

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