

The exhibition of British manufactures at Cairo and Alexandria, Egypt, which was to have been held in the latter part of the current year, has been postponed until the latter part of 1906 and the beginning of 1907, the reason for the delay being, as we are informed, that the scheme has assumed very much larger proportions than was at first anticipated. Mr. D. S. Murray is London agent for the Exhibition, with office at 11 and 12 Foster Lane, Cheapside, who would be pleased to correspond with Canadian manufacturers who might be inclined to show some of their products at the dual exhibition.

The impression prevails that Parliament will meet not later than the first week in February, and that the new tariff resolutions will be ready to be tabled immediately the address is disposed of. This view is confirmed by the knowledge of the fact that representations have been made that there will be the least disturbance to public business if the new tariff is enacted and becomes effective before the opening of navigation in the spring.

The United States has concluded to drop its contention that an additional duty should be levied on wood pulp, the product of pulp wood cut from Crown lands and private lands in the province of Quebec. This information is contained in a letter written by James B. Reynolds, assistant secretary of the treasury, to the collector of customs at Plattsburg, N.Y. The case is of considerable interest to manufacturers of wood pulp and paper, and has been in litigation for several years, the American Government insisting that it had the right to collect a countervailing duty on all wood pulp irrespective of whether the product came from wood cut on Crown or private lands. The United States Treasury Department had maintained that Canada pays a bounty on all wood pulp sent to that country, and that the merchandise thereby became liable to the extra duty upon importation into the United States. While the test case has been under consideration, many cases have been placed on the suspended files of the board of appraisers. These will now be decided and large refunds made to importers.

Correspondence between Canada and Japan over a commercial treaty has advanced to such a point, that it is practically certain Canada will shortly be accorded favored nation treatment in tariff matters by Japan. In 1897, Canada declined to become a party to Great Britain's treaty with Japan and has since been on the high tariff list. This has proved awkward in meeting the competition of the United States, which is on the lower tariff basis. The new treaty will put Canada on a footing of equality with competing nations in the Japanese market.

The Sault Ste. Marie Board of Trade asks for the abolition of the Canadian duty on soft coal used in the manufacture of coke. The matter has been laid before the Tariff Commission with the object of obtaining the location of the coke plant the Lake Superior Corporation has

decided to erect. The removal of the duty on soft coal would assist not only the manufacturers of Ontario but the railways which consume such large quantities that the duty paid must be a factor in the settlement of freight rates.

Hon. Mr. Parent, chairman of the Transcontinental Railway Commission, states that reports from some of the board's surveyors engaged in exploration work in the Lake Abitibi region, tell of the discovery of coal as well as of several other minerals. There has been no opportunity yet to test the quality of deposits and their extent, but should it prove to be the genuine article and to exist in workable quantities it will prove of enormous advantage to the Grand Trunk Pacific and also to the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. No use can be made of any coal that may exist in this remote region until the railway is built to get it out.

Representatives of the International Harvester Co., who have their headquarters in Chicago, have said, secured options on sites in Sweden with a view to building factories there, from which the trade of northern Europe can be supplied. Besides saving freight charges, the harvester company wishes to fortify itself against anti-American tariffs, which will shortly come into force in Germany, Austria-Hungary and elsewhere. Tariff difficulties caused the company several years ago to build a plant at Hamilton, Ont., and to incorporate in Canada. The company is also incorporated in Sweden and in numerous other European countries.

A new automatic fire alarm was recently tested in Nottingham, England. In a large room of a hotel, where three of the alarms, small instruments, were attached to the ceiling, a quantity of waste on a tray was saturated with methylated spirit and set on fire. In twelve seconds a gong attached by electric wires to the instruments on the ceiling sounded an alarm. Only the raising of the temperature to a certain degree (which may be varied according to circumstances) is required to cause the alarm. The instrument is merely a scientific application of the fact that heat causes expansion. As soon as the metal in the little apparatus becomes affected by the rise in temperature which must inevitably take place immediately a fire breaks out, it expands, completes an electric circuit, and the bell, which may be placed anywhere—at the fire station if desired—rings. An ingenious arrangement regulates the degree of heat at which the instrument shall give warning. In a room where, by reason of the work carried on, the temperature is ordinarily high, the point at which the warning shall be given must obviously be proportionately higher. A turn of a little clock hand is all that is required to effect it. It is claimed that the instrument may be made so sensitive that merely breathing upon it will cause the alarm to be given. The test at the hotel is reported to have been entirely successful. It is also stated that several fires have started in rooms where the alarm has