

asking for exhibits. We have seen acknowledgements of four of these letters, signed by the Deputy Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia, and by the Premiers of Quebec, British Columbia and Manitoba. The letter of the last mentioned is as under, addressed to the Secretary of the Exhibition:

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of yours under date of the 14th inst., in which an invitation is extended for the Province of Manitoba to make an exhibit at your Fall Exhibition.

I thank you on behalf of the Province for the invitation, and will give the matter the consideration that its importance demands.

Yours faithfully,

R. P. ROBLIN.

Department of Agriculture,

Manitoba, Winnipeg, 20th April, 1903.

In the face of this letter it is a pity that such a statement as that of the Nor-West Farmer was made, and that such unjust conclusions should be drawn from it. If the article had emanated from Hamilton, or even from Montreal, which places are fond of calling Toronto "Hog Town," it would not have seemed notable. But the implication is too serious to be passed by, and we therefore ask the attention of our Winnipeg contemporary to the fact that his information is incorrect.

ECHOES OF THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE CONGRESS.

The number of participating associations, whether Boards of Trade or Chambers of Commerce or associations of a trade or manufacturing character, is 160. All these, we believe, were represented at the Montreal meeting.

Many chambers took an active interest in the fast steamship service—not alone "The Fast Line," from Canada to the British Islands, but a quickening of mail and transport service between Mother Country and colonies generally. The London, Dublin and Liverpool chambers, the Montreal, Quebec, and Halifax boards and the Manufacturers' Association all prepared resolutions dealing with this subject.

Not only did the French chamber in Montreal, the proper name of which is La Chambre de Commerce de District de Montreal, put in a resolution favoring the application of the Metric System of weights and measures throughout the Empire, but suggested in another "The adoption throughout the Empire of the Decimal System of Currency, which already answers all commercial purposes."

That was a delightful story General Laurie told to illustrate English official ignorance of Canada. Said he: "I once had occasion to ask an official in London something about the Canadian mails, and was answered that the government sent no Canadian mails. But, said I, often and often I have myself seen them taken on at Moville. And then the official replied: Oh, that was the North American mail."

A suggestion made to us by a member of the Toronto delegation seems to us to contain food for thought. He remarked the difficulty of properly housing so large a body of men as 550 for deliberations lasting three or four days. "Now," he says, "Why do not the authorities of the Congress instruct the Chambers formally that they must limit the number of delegates from each chamber. This would lessen crowding at the Congresses and would indeed facilitate business." "Right you are," chimed in another, who had been at previous Congresses in London, "and there is another thing they ought to do. (I'll speak to Mr. Kendrick Murray about it.) They ought to limit the number of resolutions to be sent in by each Board or Chamber. Why, on the last day at Montreal, when we were all anxious to get away, up comes the Belleville Board with eight resolutions! No wonder Lord Brassey called their representative 'the gentleman from the progressive little town of Belleville.'"

In answer to subscriber, Chatham, we would say that the presidents of successive Congresses of the British Chambers of Commerce have been: J. Herbert Tritton, of London, 1886; Sir John Lubbock (now Lord Avebury), 1892; Sir Albert K. Rollit, M.P., 1896; Albert G. Sandeman, 1900; Lord Brassey, K.C.B., Montreal, 1903.

To find one's self speaking to people from the other side of the world on the floor of the gathering, and to hear the Pretoria and Kimberley men speak, as they did, of the Canadians and the South African war, gave a kind of thrill to the proceedings. Here was a man from Karachi, five hundred miles northwest of Bombay, and on the very

western verge of India, next to Beloochistan; and there was a man from an unpronounceable place in the Madras Presidency, away on the other side of the Indian Ocean; and sitting next to him a delegate from Colombo, where

" * * * the spicy breezes

Blow soft o'er Ceylon's isle."

And, to say the truth, he was a very wholesome looking chap, not at all the "vile" man the poet pictured the Cingalese to be. The Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad people sat together, half a dozen of them in all, and not inappropriately was placed next them the Auckland and Invercargill delegates from New Zealand. Opposite the West India folk were the East India folk, and alongside them Australasians from Queensland, West Australia and Tasmania.

Mr. Walton's (Barnsley Chamber) speech of Tuesday was a rousing one. He showed how Britain neglected China and Japan trade and was losing it while the United States gained it; how she neglected Persia—and by this culpable neglect Russia got her commercial hold there; and then he scored the British authorities and the British exporters for disregarding the chance Canada gave them by her preferential tariff in favor of England. The consular service of the Empire, he declared, must be reorganized and every part of the Empire ought to be represented. "Consular agents should cease to regard themselves as political agents only, and should act as trade agents." And Mr. Helm, of Manchester, showed how "perfunctory and worthless" many of the consular reports were which were sent home. The ascendancy of the American consular officials abroad was well described by Mr. Ponton, of Belleville, who said they possessed discretion, knowledge, good address. Canada needs more commercial agents abroad.

Mr. A. J. Hodgson, president of the Montreal Board of Trade, who presided at the dinner, is a Canadianized Englishman to be proud of. He made an admirable chairman at the banquet on Thursday night. He and his co-adjutors must have worked early and late for weeks to get the arrangements into shape for the gathering. The literature for the "All-Canada Tour," in the shape of itinerary, instructions, sleeping-car assignments, lists of names and places for both Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific roads is most voluminous and complete. Even the laundry of the visitors was thought of, and directions given on pages 18 of the yellow pamphlet, how the travellers are to get their clothes washed and ironed at Montreal, Toronto and Banff.

A wholesome looking lot of men, the delegates, sturdy for the most part and ruddy. When one was able, by means of formal introductions or fortunate chances, to get behind the armor of the chilly English manner, (I must expressly except fellows like J. L. Pollock of Paris and J. R. Hogg of South Shields from this "chill") they were almost uniformly found to be affable and even chatty. A superior lot of men, too. Some of them narrow of view, and with a tinge of arrogance; more of them genial, well-informed, with a quick grasp of things and with a fund of old-world experience and travel that made them delightful companions. For such men to see Canada as they are doing will do us good—and it will do them good too.

It was a great scene when, at the dinner on Thursday evening, the Montreal "Kilties," the Royal Scots Fusiliers, with their pipers, marched round the hall, in one door and out another. The effect was electrifying. The whole assembly rose to their feet and cheered, the pipes skirled, and the hearts of the Scotchmen swelled. Truly those Montreal fellows are big men in every way: they know how to do things well, and they don't spare expense. It was a magnificent dinner. The speaking was good, and it was a pleasing thing that the Parliamentary gladiators who were present forbore abuse and spoke nicely of each other. Sir Wilfrid's speech was a good one, Lord Minto's quite unexpectedly broad and strong.

Deserved attention was given by the Congress to the really admirable address of Senator Drummond, of Montreal. While tactfully avoiding irritation of the United Kingdom delegates of free trade views, he showed what had really come of the Preferential Tariff. That is to say, he showed the growth of the special rebate to British goods as from \$927,000 in 1898, to \$3,534,000 in 1903; and the total in six years reached \$13,800,000. Again, he showed that the effect of the preference upon the West Indies was that their export of sugar to Canada grew from 10,500 tons to an average of 20,000 tons annually in three years, while this current year it will exceed 60,000 tons. His criticism of the Preference Tariff, too, was noticeable. Its action is inequitable he contends, because, "while a rebate of 33⅓ per cent. on duties of five to ten per cent. amounts to but little, a rebate of 33⅓ upon a duty of thirty per cent. may be too much and may bear hardly upon some local industries."

Saturday's meeting was an excellent one, though scantily attended, and much good work was done in discussing the embargo on Canadian cattle—a *questio vexata*—the codifying of Commercial Law; all—