TRADE WITH RUSSIA

How Germany Tried to Keep Russia Busy in Asia While Big Business Was Built

The following article, taken from a leading Russian paper, has impressed Mr. C. F. Just, the Canadian Special Commissioner in Russia, as so powerful and complete a statement of the Russo-German trade position that it is forwarded to the department of trade, Ottawa, as an interim report:—

Dr. I. M. Goldstein, professor of economics at the Moscow University, has contributed recently an interesting article, of which a translation follows, to the Russky Slovo, the largest paper in Russia, published in Moscow, in which he sets out the history of the movement for the calculated economic enslavement of Russia which Germany has engineered for years. Dr. Goldstein has added a series of graphic diagrams which show the German proportion in value and in volume of the total importation into Russia of a multitude of imported articles, as against that supplied from all other countries. This is a realistic presentation of a subject in which Canada, with the other allied countries, is interested, and the permission of the author to reproduce the article has been secured by the Canadian Trade Commissioner, who is at present visiting Russia. The interest of Dr. Goldstein's statement will be increased when it is stated that he has been for years a member of the Chancellery for preparing treaties of commerce under the Imperial Ministries of Agriculture, Commerce and Finance in Petrograd.

Dr. Goldstein visited Canada two years ago at the request of the Russian Government, and carried away an enduring regard for the practical working of free British institutions in the overseas dominions of the Crown.

As to the German Yoke.

The traditional friendship of Germany for Russia, about which the German official press has written so much, when demanding every manner of political and economic concession on the part of Russia, has an interesting history.

During the era of Napoleon I. Russia saved Germany from complete ruin and subjugation. In the time of Napoleon III. Russia need only have moved a few army corps to the German frontier—and the Franco-Prussian war would not have given Germany two new provinces, of such great importance in the economic development and supremacy of the Rhine, and not the least important in the question of the progress of German power was the levied contribution of five milliards from France. German gratefulness for these services, which made Germany a Great Power, was very original.

Following Bismarck's maxim, "Russia must always be kept busy in Asia," German politicians always endeavored to thrust Russia face to face with various Asiatic complications, and as we had our hands full in the Far East, we were naturally unable to evince much energy in the West. Russians have to thank the agitation of William II., against the Yellow Peril, for the war with Japan,

Hopes of German Diplomacy.

The hopes of German diplomacy, that Japan would be the ally of Germany and immediately attack Russia in the rear, are partly responsible for the impudence with which Germany threw us the glove in the present war. If the hopes of Germany regarding the assistance of Japan and the neutrality of England had been realized—Germany might have been in the position to dictate another commercial treaty to Russia. Of what nature this new treaty would have been can be very clearly seen from the following particulars concerning that rôle which was beginning to be played in our imports, by exports from Germany.

By taking advantage of the war with Japan, so disadvantageous to Russia, which made a tariff war impossible on our part, Germany dictated the terms of the last Russo-German commercial treaty, with the view of quickly making of Russia an economic Germany colony.

How rapidly Germany occupied our markets may be judged from the following data of official comparisons of our foreign trade:—

Years.	Imports into Russia from (or through) Germany	England
	In per cent. of the total import.	
1898-1902	34.6	18.6
1903-1907	37.2	14.8
1908-1912	41.6	13.4
1912	45.4	12.2
1913	47.5	12.6
1914, Jan.-June	49.6	13.3

Helped by the export premiums of her own syndicates, the skilful handling and regulation of her railway tariffs, and numerous other measures, Germany grasped, therefore, nearly half of the entire imports into Russia. England's share, which at the beginning of the twentieth century still exceeded the half of imports from Germany, diminished rapidly, and went down to as far as a quarter of German imports.

In the weekly report of the department of trade, Ottawa, dated August 9th, some valuable trade statistics, supplementing the above article, are given.

FIRE LOSSES IN CANADA

Editor, *The Monetary Times*.

Sir,—It seems to be a fact that the Canadian loss ratio is higher per capita than in any other country in which records are kept, and probably the highest in the world. It is a pity that the public does not seem to realize that this condition causes an unnecessary drain upon the resources of the country and the net incomes of the inhabitants. I am convinced that if this fact were thoroughly realized fire losses would be lighter.

In this connection I note that the chief of the fire department in Ottawa furnishes fire insurance agents of that city with postal cards to be sent to him advising particulars of all losses immediately same occur. In this way a check is kept on over-insurance, and I would suggest that this plan be adopted by the fire departments of all cities and large towns in Canada, and I believe that the adoption of some such system would lead to a decided reduction in fire losses.

Yours, etc.,

ALFRED WRIGHT,

(Manager for Canada, London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Department.)

Toronto, August 9th.

FOR AMERICAN INVESTORS IN CANADIAN SECURITIES

An excellent little volume, "Canada as a Field of Investment and Enterprise," has been published by Messrs. A. H. Martens and Company, members of the Toronto Stock Exchange, and dealers in government, municipal and corporation bonds. The company has offices in Toronto and New York, and the present booklet of about 70 pages, attractively printed and bound, has been issued chiefly for circulation in the United States, where there are, unfortunately many misconceptions with regard to Canada. The object of the book, which has been compiled by Mr. Mark Wells, of Martens and Company, is to bring by the use of salient facts and striking graphic charts, the position, the wealth and the great possibilities, in the future of Canada, into a true perspective. Mr. Wells, who is a keen and reliable student of Canadian resources and of current financial affairs, has divided the book under 11 heads—namely, general, purchasing power, agriculture, manufacturing, variety of resources, banking, climatic conditions, railroading, protection provided by Canadian laws for investors in municipal bonds, safety and yield, conclusion. The chapter on banking is contributed by Mr. H. M. P. Eckardt, and that on Canadian municipal law, by Mr. E. G. Long, member of the Ontario bar. The volume is a credit to its author and to the firm issuing it. It will prove of great value to United States investors in Canadian securities.

A by-law to issue $5,500 bonds for a school at Yarmouth Heights is being prepared by the Yarmouth, Ont., council.