

## STATISTICIANS OF EMPIRE MAY MEET

### After Interchange of Ideas, Proposals Could Be Submitted to Conference

The wide divergencies that exist, both in form and substance, between the trade returns of the United Kingdom and the self-governing Dominions, are discussed in the fifth interim report of the Dominions Royal Commission. The Commissioners express their pleasure that action is now being taken by the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce to remodel the Dominion trade returns on lines similar to those published by the Board of Trade in the annual statement of trade for the United Kingdom, but state that much still remains to be done by co-operation between the departments of customs and of trade and commerce to avoid unnecessary duplication of statistical information. The report continues:—

"In our previous reports we have deemed it necessary to call attention to the lack of general statistical information available in some of the other Dominions. In the case of Canada we find the opposite condition of affairs. There is almost a superabundance of statistical material published. What appears to be most urgently needed is a co-ordination of statistical effort and even a limitation of the functions of some of the authorities at present engaged in the collection and publication of statistical data.

#### Matter of National Concern.

"Until recently it was not generally realized in the Dominion that the statistics of a country are a matter of national concern and as such should come under the general correlating authority of the Federal government, but as a result of the report of the Commission appointed by the Canadian minister for trade and commerce, a decided step has been taken to remedy this deficiency by the appointment of a Dominion statistician. Arrangements have now been completed for the co-ordination of the statistical branches of the various federal departments and, in addition, steps have been taken to secure the co-operation of the various statistical officers of the provincial governments with a view to avoiding overlapping of effort, and to securing more accurate returns.

"We may note, however, one or two matters in which statistical information is still incomplete. First, quite incomplete details are collected as to the numbers of emigrants from the Dominion. Secondly, we find that the Ontario Unemployment Commission recently had occasion to deplore the absence of statistics relating to unemployment, and we endorse their recommendation for the development of an adequate system of statistics so that the causes of unemployment and other features of labor problems may be the better understood. Thirdly, we would call attention to the fact that the collection of statistics of livestock, etc., particularly of breeding stock, and of the number likely to be available for marketing, is still very incomplete. The livestock industry is, as we have shown, of increasing importance to the Dominion. We are glad to find, therefore, that the department of agriculture at Ottawa is fully alive to this defect which it is taking steps to remedy.

#### Conference of Statisticians.

"In connection with the suggestion referred to in our previous reports as to the desirability of holding a conference of statisticians of the Empire, we found in Canada that such a conference would be welcomed. We were impressed, however, with the recommendations made to us in the Dominion that, before such a conference, preliminary inquiries should be made by the several authorities in the United Kingdom and the Dominions and an interchange of ideas effected. Concrete proposals could then be submitted to the conference for confirmation."

Sir George Burn, of Ottawa, is a well-known Canadian banker who has been honored by the King in the birthday list. Sir George obtained his first experience with the Royal Bank of Scotland, coming to Canada in 1866 to join the staff of the Royal Bank. Later, he was appointed general manager of the Bank of Ottawa, which position he has held since 1880. During his business career Sir George has been vice-president and president of the Canadian Bankers' Association, vice-president of the Ottawa Clearing House, of the Ottawa branch of the American Surety Company, New York.

## HIGH REPUTATION OF PRODUCTS

### Dominions Royal Commission Pays Tribute to Canadian Manufacturers

In not a few articles, Canadian manufactured products have earned a high reputation. This statement is made in the fifth interim report of the Dominions Royal Commission. Discussing Canadian manufactures, the report says:—

"The time was, and that not so long ago, when Canada was regarded as a country the yield of whose industry would be confined to its agricultural, mineral, fisheries and forest products. But the growth of population stimulated attempts to provide locally for the home requirements of the Dominion.

"These first attempts, although not very successful in respect of quality, showed how defects could be remedied. Since then progress has been steady and continuous. A census of production is taken once in ten years. The latest was in 1911, when the output of over 19,000 industrial establishments in 1910 was valued at \$1,166,000,000. This represented an increase of 142 per cent. on the value of the output in 1900.

#### Exports of Manufactures.

"Canada is rapidly becoming an exporter of industrial products, the value of these having risen from \$16,000,000 in 1901 to \$31,500,000 in 1910 and \$57,400,000 in 1914. By 1915 the exports of manufactured articles had increased to \$85,500,000 and the amount in 1916 will no doubt be considerably larger, for Canada has made a notable contribution to the supply of war material. We have already touched on the capacity of the Dominion for shipbuilding. The other manufactures of Canada are too numerous to mention in detail, but a word may be said here as to the advantage which the Dominion derives from its altogether exceptional resources of water-power.

"The hydro-electric energy which is now being developed in Canada is utilized not only in ordinary industries requiring power for the running of machinery, but also in electro-chemical and electro-metallurgical industries. Although this has as yet been done only on a small scale, it is hoped that there will be great and rapid growth for there are ample facilities in respect both of material and power.

#### Hydro-Electric Power.

"Meanwhile, the hydro-electric power is being used in various parts of the Dominion for the manufacture of calcium carbide, calcium cyanamide, caustic soda, aluminum, etc. It is also used in the refining of metals, while arrangements are being made for the installation on the Saguenay River in Quebec, of a 300,000 horse-power plant for the manufacture of atmospheric nitrogen products."

Mr. William Stone has been elected a director of the Manufacturers Life Insurance Company to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. R. L. Patterson. Mr. Stone is president of Stone, Limited, and a director of the Bank of Toronto.

Sir George Bury, Montreal, vice-president Canadian Pacific Railway, was honored in the King's birthday list. He entered the service of the railway as clerk in the purchasing department in 1883, since which time he has filled many important positions, including assistant superintendent of the Chalk River and Sault Ste. Marie division, superintendent of the North Bay, Fort William and Cranbrook, B.C., divisions assistant general superintendent of the Lake Superior division, and general superintendent of the Lake Superior, Central and Winnipeg divisions, being finally appointed vice-president and manager of the western lines of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1911. He was elected honorary vice-president of the Western Canadian Railway Club in 1909. The selection of Mr. Bury to go to Russia was the personal act of Premier Lloyd George, and was one of the greatest compliments paid to a Canadian railway official, and a recognition of the position he occupies as a transportation authority. A few days after his return to Montreal he was invited by President Wilson to go to Washington, and while there had conferences with the advisory committee of the council for national defence and with the leading railway executive heads. A few days later it was announced that President Wilson had decided to send a railway commission to Russia.