

Trade Openings and Industrial Development

The Commercial Awakening Now in Progress Demands the Careful thought of Industrial Leaders

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There has never been a time, even in the days of peace, when so much earnest discussion took place on the matter of trade openings. The non-technical press devotes a great deal of space to the subject and almost succeeds in giving the impression that nothing has yet been done, and that we are still considering whether it is possible to do anything or not. Those who know the facts are well aware that such an impression is very far removed from the truth. I have pointed out in this letter before, how in the very midst of our national preoccupation with the war and the supplies of war our manufacturers have seized many opportunities of initiating and carrying on industries that have hitherto been conducted in enemy countries. Of course, there is a great deal more to be done in that way, but your own experience in Canada and all that we know of other parts of the Empire point to the conclusion that we are not quite so fast asleep in working hours as the general run of newspaper-writers would lead us to suppose.

The commercial awakening is not confined to our own Empire. Neutral countries are very much on the alert. Even Spain, about which I was talking the other day to an Englishman who is an expert on that country, is feeling the impulse and taking the opportunity to give herself a good lift out of the rut. In every part of the world commerce is hopeful, and industries of all kinds are becoming more and more wide-spread wherever communities are sufficiently advanced to take them up.

What Russia is Doing.

Those countries which are involved in the present conflagration have to shape their industrial policy with one eye on the military needs of the future. This attitude is well illustrated by what is happening in Russia, which of all countries has perhaps been the most widely sterred in contrast with its industrial position before the war. There has just been published in this country a record of an interview with the Russian Minister of War, who points out how closely industrialism and militarism have been knit together by force of arms. The Russian people are doing wonders in both fields. Capable observers in that country declare that she has "set herself the ideal of relying entirely upon her own efforts;" and the Minister of War shews that the new factories are being brought into the plan of military mobilization. For example, when a factory is opened to make cans it must be ready in time of war to enter into contracts for the supply of the needs of the army. So it is with clothing workshops. Articles of everyday use that were in olden days imported from Germany are now being manufactured in Russia along with the indispensable requirements of her progressive army. It is pointed out that articles as diversified as telegraphic and telephonic plant, microscopes, surgical instruments, drugs and chemicals and many of the direct needs of munition makers are now being produced in a country which, speaking generally, was among the most backward of all those with the pale of civilization. And if this is happening in Russia, we get some idea of the furious activity with which industrial production will proceed after the war.

Trade Alliances.

What may be called the politics of industry are not likely to be settled until it is more clearly known to what extent this awakening will go in the various countries that are now at war. Inasmuch as it has now become clear that the development of our productive energy must in the future be guided to a great extent by our military needs, there will grow up alliances in trade much more powerful than have ever been known before. Military alliances will no longer remain a question of men. Nation will ask nation not only what physical strength it can place on its feet; it will also have to be known what each can do behind the fighting line, in its factories, its foundries and its laboratories. The present war has found the allied nations so much of one mind that vast quantities of material have been pooled for the common use. But that is only

been transported from one country to another, and in a sense the total resources of the Allies have been pooled for the common use. But that is only because we have a common enemy. The tremendous change which this revolution in military industrialism has brought about will be more far-reaching than the mind can yet grasp. We may not again have a common enemy.

Sound Practice.

Prudent men will take care to found and develop only such industries as they can carry on under suit-

able natural conditions. The bulk of those who discuss this subject in the press take it for granted that there is proceeding a sort of avaricious scramble for the trade hitherto carried on by our enemies. It is forgotten that if Germany and Austria are to live after the war they must engage in productive pursuits. In other words, they must trade. And it is certain that they will find some means of trading, even if the British Empire is closed to them. No amount of boycotting on our part will damp down all the factory fires in Germany. There is no reason to suppose that cautious manufacturers in any part of the British Empire have overlooked this consideration. Bearing it in mind, and bearing in mind also the knowledge of what present conditions are driving other nations in the Alliance to do, it is impossible to go very far wrong. The commerce of the world is being pressed to a higher standard of activity in every direction. Competition in the future will be keener than ever. All the more reason, therefore, why those who are laying plans for the future should be thoroughly alive to the conditions so far as they can at present be known.

Government Crop Estimate

168,811,000 Bushels of Wheat Compared with 341,602,000 Bushels Last Year, and 161,280,000 Bushels in 1914

The Census and Statistics Office has published the first or preliminary estimate of the yield of the principal grain crops of Canada in 1916 (wheat, rye, barley, oats and flaxseed), as well as a report on the condition of all field crops at the end of August.

Correspondents report that grain crops in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, which were highly promising at the end of July, have been so seriously affected by rust and hot winds during August, that large areas sown will either fail to produce any crop at all, or have been cut green, whilst the yield of grain from producing areas will be very low both in quantity and grade. Whilst the whole of Manitoba and Saskatchewan is badly affected by rust, the conditions are distinctly worse in the southern than they are the northern parts of these provinces. In Alberta, rust, though present to a certain extent, has not proved destructive, and the grain crops continue promising. Frosts, however, of August 11 and again late in the month did considerable damage. In Ontario and Quebec grain yields have been greatly reduced by drought in August; but in the Maritime Provinces, and in British Columbia the condition of the grain crops has continued to be quite favorable.

Yield of Principal Cereals, 1916.

It is estimated from the reports of correspondents that of the areas sown about 13.7 per cent of spring wheat, 8 per cent of oats, 5 per cent of barley, and 1.8 per cent of flax will fail to produce any crop of grain. Of the areas sown, however, 3 per cent of wheat, 5 per cent of oats and a small area of barley have been cut for green feed or turned into hay. These percentages represent deductions from the areas sown of 1,432,300 acres of spring wheat, 849,000 acres of oats and 69,100 acres of barley.

It is consequently estimated that the total yield of wheat this year will be 168,811,000 bushels from a harvested area of 10,085,300 acres, as compared with 376,303,600 bushels from 12,986,400 acres last year, and 161,280,000 bushels from 10,293,900 acres in 1914. The average yield per acre is 16¾ bushels as compared with 29 bushels last year and 15.67 bushels in 1914. The estimate for oats is a total yield of 341,602,000 bushels from 9,795,000 acres, as against 520,103,000 bushels from 11,365,000 acres in 1915 and 313,078,000 bushels from 10,061,500 acres in 1914, the average per acre being 34.88 bushels in 1916, 45.76 bushels in 1915 and 31.12 bushels in 1914. For rye, the estimate is 1,990,800 bushels from 101,420 acres, as compared with 2,394,100 bushels from 112,300 acres in 1915 and 2,016,800 bushels from 111,280 acres in 1914, the yields per acre being 19.63 bushels in 1916, 21.32 bushels in 1915 and 18.12 bushels in 1914. Barley yields 34,408,000 bushels from 1,326,800 acres, as against 53,331,300 bushels from 1,509,350 acres in 1915 and 36,201,000 bushels from 1,495,600 acres in 1914, the yield per acre being 25.89, 35.33 and 24.21 bushels respectively. The flaxseed estimate is for 8,625,300 bushels from 710,000 acres, an average of 12.15 bushels per acre. For the three Northwest provinces the total estimated yields are for wheat, 145,466,000 bushels; for oats, 243,114,000 bushels; for barley, 24,502,000 bushels, for rye, 601,000 bushels, and for flax, 8,572,000 bush-

els. The average yields per acre of wheat are in Manitoba 10½, Saskatchewan 16, and Alberta 24¼ bushels per acre.

Condition of Field Crops.

At the end of August, the condition of field crops, expressed in percentage of a standard representing a full crop, was as follows: Spring wheat 69, oats 74, barley 73, rye 80, peas 68, corn for husking 67, potatoes 72, alfalfa 94, corn for fodder 77, pasture 86, hay and clover 103. All other crops ranged between 75 and 78. In Manitoba the condition of spring wheat was marked down to 37 per cent as against 85 per cent, and in Saskatchewan to 61 per cent as against 94 per cent at the end of July. The percentage of 37 for Manitoba on August 31 is the lowest on record since the present crop reporting system began in 1908.

EMPLOYMENT OF RETURNED SOLDIERS

The meeting of the Dominion Hospital Commission held in Toronto last week adopted two resolutions having to do with the employment of returned soldiers after the war, which included a comprehensive land settlement policy and the construction of a great national highway.

The resolution adopted with reference to the construction of a highway reads:

That as a considerable number of the men who have enlisted and are at present overseas or about to proceed thither, are unskilled laborers for whom it may be difficult to provide employment immediately on their return, the Commission advocates the building of a national highway by the Federal Government. It would respectfully submit to the Government that such an undertaking would be a work of the greatest value. Among the advantages would be:

(1) Temporary employment would be provided for thousands of men who would not otherwise find work.

(2) No public work would provide so large an amount of employment at so small a capital outlay.

(3) The highway would be of immense value as a means for the transit of agricultural and other produce.

(4) It would be the means of attracting numbers of tourists, entailing the spending of money within the borders of Canada.

(5) It would solve the problem of demobilization, as it would allow of a gradual disbanding of the troops from coast to coast.

(6) It would be a most practical memorial to Canada's part in the great war.

The other resolution recommended: "That as it is confidently expected that a large number of returning soldiers will desire to settle on the land, and as such settlement is in the best interests of the men themselves and the country in general, the Federal Government be urged to promulgate at once a comprehensive land settlement policy of an attractive character, so that steps may be taken to acquaint the men now under arms with the details of this policy."