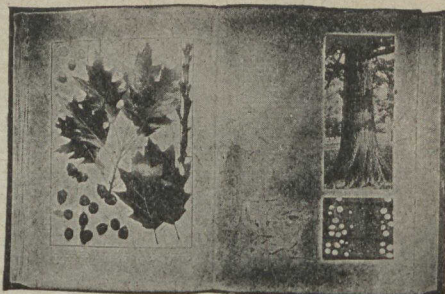


two officials of the committee, Messrs. E. J. Harding and A.H. Bridgman, were met at Vancouver by Sir Robert Sinclair, of New Zealand, and Sir John William Langerman, at the close of the conference. At the present time the allied powers have been discussing the question of closer trade relations after the war. This idea springs from the antagonism to the Central Powers. Whether, when the war is over and commence is relieved from the straight jacket tension in which it is now encompassed, this feeling will be as dominant is another question. The nations are war-mad. The arbitrament of the sword as a means of settling territorial expansion and changing political policies may be essentially ethical, but when it comes to dealing with the laws of commerce, which are grounded on the basic principle of buying in the cheapest market and selling in the dearest, the problem is essentially different. Service and price go hand in hand with the law of supply and demand. If any nation can make an article which is better adapted to the service to which it was designed than that of another, in the end it will be adopted. This is inevitable. At the present time the whole business world is in a chaotic condition. The United States' lumbermen are clamorous for a protective duty against Canadian lumber and shingles, the British Columbia lumber interests are petitioning for an imperial preference. The republic of Chile has increased its lumber tariff. New Zealand's state-owned railroads impose a higher rate on foreign woods moving on its lines than that of native manufacture. In the meantime the export lumber interests of the Pacific Coast have wisely decided to form an export company which has for its object the securing of a better price for its foreign market. It is quite reasonable to suppose that the lumber interests of British Columbia will form a similar selling organization. At the present time the British Columbia mills are securing from the British Government a price of \$12 for Douglas fir ties, which have been purchased from American mills at \$9. This is an example of discrimination, blended with an earnest desire for national unity due to the stress of war."



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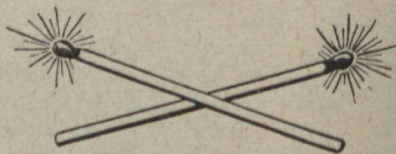
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