

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES

Valuable Trade Volume Issued at Ottawa—Commissioner Griffin's Work

BY E. B. BIGGAR.

To present a popular sketch of a country and then fill up and round out this outline with a body of facts on the trade, transportation, agriculture and industries in a style to hold the attention of the reader from beginning to end is an accomplishment well befitting this great and expanding era. Sir George E. Foster, minister of trade and commerce, and Richard Grigg, commissioner of commerce, are to be congratulated on the selection of a man who has been able thus brilliantly, in a book of 173 pages, just issued at Ottawa, to combine the gifts of a magazine writer with the industry and insight of a trade investigator and business getter. This combination has been found in Mr. Watson Griffin, and his subject is "Canada and the British West Indies," to which region he was sent to make a special report on the opportunities of Canadian trade.

Mr. Griffin's mission was timely, because the preferential trade treaty entered into by Canada with certain West Indian islands in June, 1913, had been in existence long enough to disclose indications of developments in new lines of trade and uncover some of the defects of our own trade methods. On almost every page, Mr. Griffin throws sidelights on the facts which a Canadian manufacturer or exporter needs to know in order to meet the conditions if he would do a successful business.

Goods that are Not Wanted.

The commissioner not only tells of the conditions of life and the methods of trade in vogue in each island, but gives many a kindly caution against sending goods that are not wanted in those regions, and against using methods that are not acceptable to the people.

The islands and colonies that entered the trade agreement with Canada are: Trinidad, Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Montserrat, Antigua (with its partners, Barbuda and Redoula), St. Kitts-Nevis (with Anquilla) and the Virgin Islands. Included in the agreement also is British Guiana, the colony on the mainland of South America. The total population of these islands and Guiana is a little over a million. Then there are the following which have not yet joined in the agreement: Jamaica, Turks and Caicos Islands, Cayman Islands, Bahamas, and British Honduras on the mainland of Central America, whose aggregate population is a little under a million. This does not appear at first sight to be a large field for trade, estimated by population, but when it is pointed out that if all the islands and colonies treated of, were settled as densely as Barbados, the total population of the lands within the agreement would be over 96,000,000, and those now outside of the agreement would have a population of over 17,000,000.

Growth of Population.

The steady migration of British subjects from East India to these West Indian islands, makes such a growth easily a possibility within the lifetime of Canadian children now able to read. In a short review it is impossible to summarize the great mass of practical information given in this report, which is made the more instructive by many well-chosen illustrations.

Complements of Each Other.

One set of facts will stand out clearly before the reader, however, and this is that Canada and the West Indies are the very complements of each other, in a commercial and industrial sense. Canada has many products and manufactures which are needed there and which cannot be grown or made there; while a large array of tropical and semi-tropic products of these regions are highly prized in Canada and cannot be produced here on a commercial scale. The advantages of better mutual knowledge and clearer trade connections are therefore indisputable, and hence Mr. Griffin and those under whose authority he was commissioned, have placed the merchants and manufacturers of Canada under tribute of gratitude for this report.

COBALT ORE SHIPMENTS

The following are the shipments of ore, in pounds, from Cobalt Station for the week ended December 24th, 1915:—

Dominion Reduction Company, 88,000; Right-of-Way Mines, 84,239; McKinley-Darragh-Savage Mines, 59,701; Mining Corporation of Canada (Cobalt Lake Mine), 149,202; Mining Corporation of Canada (Townsite City Mines), 78,131; Beaver Consolidated Mines, 63,003. Total, 522,276 pounds, or 261 tons.

The total shipments since January 1st, 1915, are now 30,901,909 pounds, or 15,450.9 tons.

MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

The following message has been received from H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, governor-general of Canada, and president of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, for publication in *The Monetary Times*:—

"Somewhat over a year ago, as president of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, I made an appeal to the people of the Dominion for funds to assist the families of the gallant men who were going to the front. Though anticipating a generous response, I was hardly prepared for the magnificent manner in which the call was met. Moneys have poured into the treasury of the fund until the total contributions have reached and exceeded six million dollars.

"Large, however, as this sum appears, it has not greatly exceeded current demands, and, if peace were declared in the immediate future, the entire surplus on hand would be required before all the men of the expeditionary force could again return home.

"To-day there are 25,000 families, comprising, it is estimated, 80,000 individuals, dependent upon the patriotic fund.

"With further recruiting the demands upon the fund will, with each succeeding month, continue to grow, so that it is estimated that, should the war continue during 1916, a sum amounting to some \$8,000,000, and probably more, will be required. This would, however, only mean \$1 per head of the population for the people of Canada, and it is little, indeed, to ask of those who remain at home in comparison with the sacrifice in life and limb of those who are fighting in defence of the nation.

"In spite of all the various calls that have been made for funds to aid our soldiers and sailors and the magnificent response that has been made in each and every case, I still feel assured that the warm hearts of all Canadians will respond to this further appeal to enable the patriotic fund to continue its splendid work during 1916 and take care of the families of those who are fighting for their Sovereign, the Empire, and the Dominion on the battlefields of Europe and on the high seas."

IN the Field of Mortgage Loans.

1. PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST PAYMENTS.
2. FORECLOSURES.
3. DEMAND FOR FUNDS.
4. INTEREST RATES.
5. RENEWALS.
6. PROPERTY VALUES.
7. MORATORIUM ACTS.
8. OUTLOOK FOR FUNDS.

See *The Monetary Times Annual*
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