

fertile lands between them and the sea on either side and many mountain streams. The courses of these streams had to be protected from spring torrents and the waters conserved for use in the dry seasons, and immense engineering works have been constructed to do this, so as to retain that fertility and enable the raising of these crops. There are dykes along the river banks to prevent overflow, reservoirs to retain the water for the dry time, and other similar works, in which respect Italy is unique and pre-eminent.

What has been the development of Italy lately? In 1850 she had 27,000,000 people and in 1907 she had 34,000,000, a very respectable increase. But when you take into account the tremendous emigration from that country to all parts of the world, running to as much as 600,000 souls a year for some years back, you can better understand what that increase of home population means.

Italy to-day is rich and prosperous. We have an idea here she is poor. No, she is rich. Her bonds, which a few years ago were below par, are quoted at 104. And a few years ago these were 5 per cent. bonds, but a few years ago there was a consolidation and reorganization of her finances with a conversion of the debt, and to-day that debt is at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. instead of the 5 per cent. of a few years ago and yet the consolidated bonds are at 104 instead of 71.

Last year Italy had a surplus of 91,000,000 lira of 5 to the dollar. In 1897, 10 years before, it was only 9,000,000 lira.

And about commerce? We boast of the increase of our commerce. Looking at the commerce of Canada from 1895 to 1907 and taking 1 as the statement of it 12 years ago, last year it was 2.90, or nearly three times as great. How does Italy compare? Taking again 1 as the basis for 1895, Italy in 1907 was 2.07, Austria 1.70, the United States 1.95 and Germany 2.09; so that Italy's increase was the greatest of any European country, except Germany.

And as to our commerce with Italy. The people of Italy are much interested in Canada, and many of her people are here. They also have a large productive capacity of material that sells, and want to import other goods from us. There are certain things we could send them and take their exports in return. Notwithstanding her immense wheat production, Italy last year imported \$35,000,000 worth of wheat, \$3,000,000 worth of horses, \$2,000,000 worth of maize, \$13,000,000 of fish, \$22,000,000 of lumber and \$52,000,000 of coal, \$3,000,000 of pulp and \$7,500,000 of paper. Every one of