

Prominent Topics.

Marine Insurance Rates.

The London underwriters are considering the question of increasing the marine insurance rates. The losses during the last year, culminating in the wreck of the Titanic, have amounted to nearly \$25,000,000. In many cases rates have already been increased from 15 to 21 p.c. It has been agreed to raise the rates on registered postal matter 25 per cent., and it is understood that rates on specie crossing the Atlantic will be advanced at least 50 per cent.

Dangers of the Streets.

Several carters have been very properly fined for not obeying the law which forbids them to pass street cars while the cars are stationary. A much more dangerous class of offenders who ought to be severely punished for the same kind of offence is to be found in the automobile drivers, who rush through crowds of people who are embarking upon or alighting from the cars at the peril of their lives. If it is right to fine the carter a dollar the chauffeur ought to be fined ten dollars, and his employer a hundred dollars for committing or being responsible for the same crime.

Canadian Immigration.

The number of immigrants into Canada during the year ending March 31, was 354,237, of whom 138,121 were British, 133,710 American, and 82,406 came from other countries. Homesteads were taken up by 10,978 Americans and 5,739 British. This was to be expected. The immigrants from the western states are experienced farmers, who give up their old farms to cross the border, because they have been taught by observation and the speeches of patriotic American statesmen like Champ Clark, that farming pays better in Canada than in the United States. The immigrants from the United Kingdom are not many of them farmers, but they will become farmers in the Canadian West, and when they take up homesteads in a few years time, it will not be as immigrants but as Canadians.

The Death of Mr. M. J. A. Prendergast.

By the death of Mr. M. J. A. Prendergast, general manager of La Banque d'Hoche- laga, which took place on Monday, there passed away one of the best-known of French-Canadian bankers, and a gentleman who enjoyed a career that savoured largely of the romantic. Born at Quebec in 1844, Mr. Prendergast in his youth studied law, with a view to a career at the Bar. He received his gown when but 22 years of age, but in the following year left law for the service of the Papal Zouaves, who fought unsuccessfully for the temporal supremacy against Garibaldi. Having attained in that service the rank of Sergeant-Major, Mr.

Prendergast on his return to Canada, began the practice of law, but soon afterwards drifted into journalism, publishing a newspaper in Montreal. In 1887, at the solicitation of the late Mr. F. X. St. Charles, president of La Banque d'Hoche laga, he accepted the post of cashier of the institution and later became its general manager. The success of his banking career is attested by the present day position of La Banque d'Hoche laga.

Canada's Foreign Trade.

Canada's imports for the year ending March 31, 1912, reached the unprecedented figure of \$517,382,000 against \$461,898,000 in 1910-11. Of the 1911-12 imports \$305,204,000 consisted of dutiable goods and \$186,144,000 came in on the free list. The balance, \$26,033,000, was coin and bullion. The exports of Canadian products for the two years respectively were as follows:

	1910-1911	1911-1912.
The mine.. . . .	\$42,787,000	\$41,324,000
The fisheries.. . . .	15,675,000	16,704,000
The forest.. . . .	45,439,000	40,892,000
Animals and produce	52,244,000	48,210,000
Agriculture.. . . .	82,601,000	107,143,000
Manufactures.. . . .	35,283,000	35,836,000
Miscellaneous.. . . .	285,000	116,000
	\$274,314,000	\$290,235,000

As Mr. Foster points out, the proportion of exports to imports still leaves something to be desired. The trade with the principal countries was as follows:

	Exports.	Imports.
Great Britain.. . . .	\$147,240,000	\$116,807,000
United States.. . . .	102,041,000	356,358,000
Germany.. . . .	3,577,000	11,090,000
France.. . . .	2,048,000	11,744,000
Cuba.. . . .	2,019,000	1,488,000
Belgium.. . . .	2,851,000	3,682,000
Argentina.. . . .	2,975,000	3,007,000
Australia.. . . .	3,927,000	431,000
New Zealand.. . . .	1,330,000	1,331,000
West Indies, British.. . . .	3,966,000	5,747,000
South Africa.. . . .	2,407,000	142,000
Newfoundland.. . . .	4,131,000	1,841,000

Great Britain is still our best customer, but there is room for considerable expansion in our trade with the British dependencies, and this it is the avowed policy of the Borden Government to seek to develop.

The following important appointments on the staff of the Bank of Montreal are announced:—

C. W. Dean, acting manager of the Montreal branch, has been appointed manager.

G. G. Adam, assistant manager at the Toronto branch, has been appointed acting manager at that office.

W. J. Ambrose, formerly manager at Lethbridge, Alta., has been appointed acting manager at Spokane, Wash., in the absence of A. H. Buchanan, who has been granted extended leave of absence owing to ill-health.

A. J. C. Galletly, manager at Victoria, B.C., who is retiring from the service, is succeeded by J. S. C. Fraser, formerly manager at Rossland, with the title of acting manager.

R. R. Wallace, assistant manager at Vancouver, has been appointed manager of that office.