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IN ADVANCE

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THE C.M.A. ITINERARY.

A paragraph in our Manchester's correspondent's letter of 12th May, deserves some comment. It is there suggested that the English trip being arranged by the London Chamber of Commerce for the members of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association will not include Manchester in its itinerary. And the reason alleged by our correspondent for this remarkable omission is the lack of interest on the part of Manchester in Canadian affairs in consequence of protective measures passed or contemplated by the Dominion Government. We do not believe that Manchester merchants care so little for Canada that they have no wish to have a visit from a body consisting of hundreds of Canadian merchants and manufacturers. And we submit that for the London Chamber of Commerce to profess to show their guests the commercial centres of England, and to leave out Manchester would be doing very little credit to either the courtesy of the hosts or to the intelligence of their guests. Manchester is the third city in England, and the fourth in the United Kingdom. It is the distributing point for the most densely populated part of the British Islands, and a place of intrinsic interest to both visiting manufacturers and merchants. Besides, it possesses the Manchester Ship Canal and system of docks. We prefer not to believe the story referred to by our correspondent. Whatever the individual views of the members of the visiting party on protection or free trade, or whatever the sentiments in this regard of the officers of Manchester's Chamber of Commerce, it is incredible that the latter would not be willing to receive members of a body which is out of politics, and many of whose members are as much imbued with free trade ideas as any Cobdenite of old. There is just a possibility that the dissimilar attitudes of the London and the Manchester chambers on the present fiscal situation in the Old Country may have

had something to do with differences between committees of those bodies which have arisen in planning the trip. But we cannot think that either body would from any local bickerings spoil the visit of the Canadian visitors. It is, of course, too early to say exactly what the itinerary may be, for it will be three or four weeks before it begins. And this will afford time to harmonize dissensions if there are any.



MONTREAL FIRE APPLIANCES.

An appeal which ought to have some effect on even a body so hard to move upon occasion as the Montreal City Council, has been forwarded by the Board of Trade of that city to Mayor Laporte. It premises that the council of the board continues to be greatly concerned regarding the fire protective service of the city, the improvement of which is not receiving from the council the urgent attention its importance demands; and cites memorials forwarded to the council on this subject in May and December last. Incredible as it may seem, the much-needed extra pump, which was said to have been ordered on the 7th March last, has not yet been ordered, because the city council cannot make up its mind whether it shall be steam or electric.

Recalling the devastating fires of several past years in Montreal, there is little wonder that the Board of Trade are anxious that the city's supply of water shall be increased for fire purposes. Indeed it is stated by that body, we believe quite truly, that the fire-fighting equipment and the water supply of Montreal are altogether inadequate to the proper protection of the city from fire. But there are other reasons which should stimulate prompt increase of pumping capacity—only the city council appears to be oblivious of them: "The possible shortage of water supply in a city the size of Montreal involves another risk from