

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY
BY
The Monetary Times
Printing Company
of Canada, Limited

Publishers also of
"The Canadian Engineer"

Monetary Times

Trade Review and Insurance Chronicle
of Canada

Established 1867

Old as Confederation

JAS. J. SALMOND
President and General Manager

A. E. JENNINGS
Assistant General Manager

JOSEPH BLACK
Secretary

W. A. McKAGUE
Editor

Federation with the West Indian Islands

Raw Materials of West Indian Islands Supplement those of Canada—Transportation an
Essential Part of Commercial Union—Problems of Government Not Insurmountable—
Feeling in West Indies is for Connection with some Strong Commercial Nation

By E. C. KEEFER, A.M.C.I.E.

"WESTWARD the course of empire takes its way." So said Bishop Berkeley two hundred years ago. Civilization and all it entails, born in China, has crept westward across Asia and Europe to complete the circle in North America. Somebody has said the twentieth century belongs to Canada. To every one interested in Canadian development and the future of the British Empire the subject is worthy of the deepest and most painstaking consideration.

It is not my purpose here to dilate on the natural resources of Canada. Abler pens than mine have already done so where all may read, but I would like to quote a paragraph from Lloyds' Calendar, indicating Canada's favorable position in relation to the world's markets.

"It requires from 36 to 42 days for mail to pass from the principal ports of New Zealand to London, the hub of the European markets; from 26 to 33 days for mail to pass from the principal ports of Australia to London; from 17 to 22 days from the principal ports of South America; from 17 to 21 days from the ports of South Africa, and 14 to 16 days from the ports of India, but only 7 to 8 days from the principal ports of Canada. . . . These figures also indicate the relative time required (for freight cargoes) and the cost of cable despatches, a consideration of great and growing importance to trade and commerce. The market second in importance is that of the United States, and as regards this market none of the newer countries is so favorably situated as is Canada. Japan and China form the market third in importance, and with regard to this market also, Canada is as favorably situated as any of the above-mentioned new countries, and much more so than most of them. Canada thus lies midway between two of the world's greatest markets and is separated from the third only by an imaginary boundary line."

Canada's potential wealth and political possibilities are unlimited, indescribably so; and I wish I could ordain that every Canadian should carry, for preference inscribed on the face of his watch, where he could read it hourly, the words:—

"Canada can become the keystone of the British Empire IF we go the right way about it."

Looking back on the changes "the course of empire" has made in Canada since the good Bishop uttered the pronouncement at the head of this article, who would dare to prophesy as to what the position of Canada in the British Empire and the world will be in the next two hundred years? Not I, for one! But of this I feel assured that, be it soon or long in coming, the day will surely arrive, if the British Empire hold together, when Canada will have a population commensurate with her size and resources. When that day arrives, when we count our population in tens where we now count in units, then Canada, by virtue of her agricultural and mineral wealth and manufacturing resources, will be the most import-

ant portion of the British Empire. If this is allowed, and to my mind it is self-evident, and admits of no argument, then it is necessary to prepare, while it is in our power to do so, to enter the heritage awaiting us.

The war has shown us that a great nation depends enormously on the favorable position of its source of supply of raw materials. To a purely manufacturing nation the question is vital, and to any nation it is of extreme importance. Canada's supply of raw material is unfortunately limited by her climate. All that appertains to temperate zones she has in abundance, but in the products of semi-tropical and tropical countries she is lacking. The day is past when nations can go, sword in hand, or by peaceful penetration, seeking new lands for exploitation, or supply of produce, foreign to their own countries. Yet trade and commerce in these days of competition, depend for supremacy on little things, on paring of costs of material or production, on efficiency, with all it means in manufacture and transport, and economy of management through consolidation and co-operation.

To Canada, however, may come the opportunity to secure by federation sources of supply of practically all the raw material she lacks. These sources are situated in the West Indies and British possessions in the Caribbean Seas which comprise the following:—

Colony.	Population.	Area Sq. Mile.
Bermudas, group of islands (only 20 inhabited)	21,000	19
Bahamas, group of islands (about 12 inhabited)	54,000	4,404
Jamaica, one island	837,000	4,373
Turks, Caicos and Cayman Islands, three islands (dependencies of Jamaica)	166
Leeward Islands, nine islands ..	137,000	715
Windward Islands, three islands ..	175,000	506
Trinidad and Tobago, two islands.	372,000	1,368
Barbadoes, one island	184,000	166
British Honduras, colony in Central America	41,000	8,598
British Guiana, colony in South America	314,000	90,500
Totals	2,125,000	111,315

These colonies, with the exception of the Windward Islands, are divided as shown above, each colony having its own governor, officials, legislature, law, revenue and tariff. The Windward Islands Colony is again subdivided into its three component islands, each with its deputy governor, law, legislature, revenue and tariff distinct; but with one governor for the group.