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MEXICO AND JAPAN.

THE Mexican Government, in denying that it has sold the Magdalena Bay property to Japan for a coaling station, "doth protest too much." It says:—"Under no circumstances, directly or indirectly, is it possible for any foreign government to acquire the ownership of any part of Mexico. On this subject all Mexicans, without distinction as to parties or classes, are unanimous in protecting the integrity of the soil of our country which we regard as sacred."

Even if the Government sold the property to the Japanese Government, it would not be selling Mexico's sovereign rights; and there is nothing, we take it, to prevent the property being sold to Japanese subjects. In neither case would Japan acquire any sovereign rights. When the Japanese Government wants to get a foothold on the American continent, it will try to do it by force, and is not unlikely to succeed. The question of property titles will not enter into consideration. If Japanese purchasers attempt to make or fortify coaling stations in Mexico, we presume the Mexican Government has ample legal powers to expropriate the land and buildings for its own military purposes.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE IMMIGRATION BOOM.

A New York contemporary says:—"There is general agreement among the passenger departments of steamship companies that the recent rise in immigration to the United States and Canada is to be interpreted as an expression of faith on the part of the wage-earner that the English speaking portion of North America is going to afford him a field of steady employment during the coming year. The last week of March brought in nearly 25,000 people at New York. During January, the latest month of official report, 388,463 persons arrived in the United States."

While we are disposed to welcome every sign of continued prosperity in Canada and the United States, we cannot help thinking that it is rather far-fetched to assume that an increase in immigration indicates that the exiles from Roumania, Croatia, Hungary and other parts beyond the seas are impressed by the idea that a year of prosperity is coming to this continent, or that their opinion on the subject carries much weight. The utmost it indicates is that their friends who have preceded them across the ocean have been doing well enough to inspire them to advise their old neighbours to follow them and

perhaps doing well enough to enable them to send money home to help pay the cost of migration. A man does not need to study the business outlook to realize that Canada and the United States are better places in which to live than the Balkans.

THE Hon. George E. Foster has officially announced CANADA-WEST INDIA CONFERENCE that as a result of the Canada-West India Conference just

concluded at Ottawa, an agreement has been signed by the representatives of the West Indian Colonies and the Dominion Government providing for exchanges of products on a wide and generous scale and based on a preference to the products of each country in the markets of the other.

The agreement goes to the governments of the individual colonies for consideration, and comes into effect when approved by the Dominion of Canada, the colonial legislatures of the West Indies and His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies. It will be possible for all these to consider and decide, and for the agreement to go into effect, before the beginning of the year 1913.

No difficulty is anticipated in obtaining the necessary ratifications. Grenada, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Jamaica and British Honduras, are not included at present, but provision is made for their admission whenever they choose to come in.

The following resolutions were also passed:—"That improved and cheaper communication by cable is urgently required; that the most acceptable plan for the accomplishment of this is by an extended all-British cable system from Bermuda to Barbadoes, Trinidad and British Guiana; that this can be effected through the medium of a cable company by the co-operation of the West Indian Colonies, Canada and the Home Government, either by guarantee against loss or by payment of subsidies; that to this end it is desirable that the Canadian Government enter into communication with the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

"That this conference urge upon the Home Government the desirability of co-operating with the Colonial and Canadian Governments in providing an up-to-date service of steamships, specially constructed for and run in strict accord to the requirements of the trade between Canada and the West Indies; that the itinerary of these steamers be so arranged as to make sharp connections with the Canadian mail steamers plying between Canadian and British Atlantic ports."