

ple of the Canadian Parliament of 1897, has not insisted on mutual preference. The larger Dominions have granted some measure of preference to British goods, and thus the step taken by the British Government creates in some degree a mutual preference, though it is not so stipulated in legislation.

The question has now to be considered from another angle. Under the peace treaty provision is made for the administration of certain captured German territories by the mandatory system—a plan by which Great Britain (or any other of the great powers) may be given the control and management of a colony, not a sovereignty, but a trusteeship. It has been decided in the British Parliament that any colony which may thus come under British rule shall be deemed British so far as to entitle its products to the preference that is granted in the markets of the United Kingdom to the products of the Dominions. But the colonies which become British under this mandatory system will not and cannot grant any preference in their markets to the products of Great Britain. Britain, holding these colonies only as trustees for the Allied and Associated Powers, cannot expect British goods to receive in the colonial markets any tariff advantages that are not to be accorded to the products of other nations which are parties to the treaty. Thus, so far as these colonies are concerned, the preference will not be mutual. They will receive a preference from Great Britain, but they will give none in return.

An Oasis

THE seekers after amusement and excitement, and the men willing to cater to their wants, are numerous and enterprising. When a famous American lottery scheme was faced with an expiring charter, and no prospect of obtaining a renewal on American soil, the managers turned their attention to the Canadian Provinces, and it is said that under the guise of an educational enterprise, with a promise of sharing profits with colleges and schools, they very nearly obtained the right to carry on the lottery business on this side of the boundary. To-day large sums would willingly be paid to any community that could offer the privilege of disregarding the laws respecting gaming and drinking. But there is no place on the continent of North America that can offer such privilege to anybody. So the enterprising promoters of such condemned methods of amusement are turning their attention to the islands of the South. Cuba at present seems to be the most likely country in which a new Monte Carlo may be established. The Republic is still Spanish in its character, and Spanish ideas of what may be allowed for the recreation of the people are less rigid than those of the United States and Canada. Several hotels of the most luxurious character are projected at Havana, and large stocks of wines and liquors are being laid in. Visits to the

Cuban Republic, especially to Havana, are likely to become quite popular. "Let us go to Havana" will have a new significance.

Embargoes

THE pressure of the high cost of living causes many projects of relief to be brought forward, not all of which are able to stand in the presence of enquiry and criticism. The demand for the placing of an embargo on the shipment of foodstuffs is frequently heard. Food of all kinds commands high prices. Scarcity unquestionably makes for high prices. Food is being shipped abroad, to the United States in some cases, to overseas countries, where shipping facilities are available. Such shipments certainly help to create scarcity and scarcity increases the price. Why, then allow the food to be shipped abroad? Why not establish an embargo against the export? So runs the argument occasionally used. There is, however, another side to the question. Few countries are self-contained. Nearly every country requires something that it can most conveniently obtain by importation from other countries. The United States comes nearer to the idea of a self-contained country than most others. But even the United States requires things from abroad. Trade thus becomes international. Embargoes may affect other countries than the one adopting the embargoes. There are many points along the boundary line between Canada and the United States at which an exchange of products is convenient, if not economically necessary. At such points an embargo would prove very inconvenient. If Canada, in her zeal for her own interests, should forget the international situation and lay an embargo on the export of food, is it not more than possible that she would find the game one at which two could play? Might not an advantage in respect to one class of products be more than balanced by retaliatory measures?

Ministers' Salaries

IT is not the remuneration of Ministers of the Gospel that we mean, though that might well be a proper subject for comment. In some of the religious denominations systematic efforts are made to give the pastors of the churches decent salaries, but there are some which are very backward in this respect. Many a clergyman who is doing noble service in his community has to struggle against financial conditions that cripple him in his work. But it is the Ministers of State that we have in mind now. The subject of the salaries of such officials was recently discussed in the British House of Commons. The Government of Mr. Lloyd George brought forward a bill to raise the salaries of several of the less prominent Ministers from £2,000 to £5,000, which is the compensation allowed the principal Ministers. There was a pretty general feeling that the smaller sum was low for the char-

acter of the office, but the point was made, with much force that, before making the proposed increase, the Government should endeavor to cut down its large ministerial list.

During the war many new offices, including some new ministerial posts, were created. Peace has come, but there has been little indication of an intention to reduce the numbers of the official class to a peacetime basis. So strong was the feeling of the British House in favor of reorganization before the granting of larger salaries that the Government were obliged to virtually withdraw their bill. Mr. Bonar Law, who was leading the House, was able to secure a majority for the second reading of the bill only on his giving an assurance that no further action would be taken on it at present. It was immediately after this incident that Mr. Lloyd George made his somewhat sensational speech in which he told his colleagues that they must cut down the expenses of their departments or make way for men who would do so.

In Canada there is occasional discussion of a similar question. That the salaries paid to the Ministers of the Crown at Ottawa are less than they should be, having regard to the dignity and responsibilities of their pensions, is admitted by most of the people who have given the subject serious consideration. There are now a number of officials who receive higher salaries than the Ministers whose position is supposed to be the highest in the State. And here too, the tendency to increase the number of Ministers operates against the increase of salaries.

Prices

THERE are some signs of the reduction in the prices of foodstuffs that the consuming public are so anxious to see. The vigorous steps taken in the United States by President Wilson and Attorney-General Palmer against the packers and cold storage men alarmed many of the holders of foodstuffs and led to their goods being offered on the market at somewhat lower rates. Probably the publicity given to the intention of the authorities had more effect than any of the actual proceedings begun in the courts. In sympathy with the American situation there is a tendency towards a slight reduction in the cost of some foods in Canada. Our Board of Commerce, from which some people expected much relief, has been slow in getting into operation. Even now, it is not fully organized. Judge Robson and Mr. O'Connor were appointed some time ago. There seems to be some hitch in the appointment of the third member and temporarily Mr. F. A. Aeland, Deputy Minister of Labor, has been named to act with Messrs. Robson and O'Connor. The three gentlemen will, no doubt, do what they can to grapple with the problem, but the public, already impatient, will desire the Board to be made complete without delay.