

who can estimate to what extent this is the secret of her power? Go where you will, you will find the handiwork of her looms; you will see the skill of her artisans; and wherever the power of her commerce is felt there will also be found the blessings of her civilization; and hence it is that to-day one may find in her markets "Purthians, Medes and Elamites—in fact, men of every color, and race and language under Heaven."

There is much that a Government can do to foster trade, but it cannot compel men to go to markets which it opens; it cannot compel men to reap the harvest which it puts within their reach. That must be done by the men themselves; they must be brought into touch with the great business houses at all points or centres if the full measure of such new departure is to be entirely realized.

How are we to reach the condition of things which is going to bring us the foreign trade we are seeking? In connection with the development of trade with the countries we have been considering, what will we need?

1st. A perfect system of steam communication, a class of vessels in every way fitted for freight and passenger service, vessels having a speed of not less than from 13 to 15 miles per hour.

2nd. An efficient cable service. It seems incredible that cable messages from and to the West Indian Islands cost to-day from 12s. to 15s. 6d. sterling per word, arising, in part, I have no doubt, from the fact that the cable system is connected, in addition to its British connection, with French, Spanish and Danish Islands, as well as with the United States.

3rd. A satisfactory postal service, the present one being as unsatisfactory as it can well be.

4th. The improvement of the light-house service, if time and safety are to be secured—for while no coast line on the continent is more dangerous, none is worse lighted. This I suppose is an Imperial matter, but none the less important.

5th. The removal of every obstacle which acts as a barrier to the carrying on of an extended trade between both countries. Unless this is done the expenditure upon ships or cables would be a waste of money, for it may be regarded as a settled principle in business that no nation will

deal with any other which, by any Customs enactment, renders the introduction of their products impossible, and that in such cases transactions will be limited strictly to those which are the result of necessity only.

I am aware that the ground may be taken that the past has been a season of preparation—that it represents that chapter in the history of a young country which must be regarded as the one of foundation-laying; that, as in the case in the foundation of great structures, much of the expenditure does not immediately appear; that its value, so far as appearances are concerned, are prospective. So in like manner it must be held that the great expenditure in railways is as well as for the business of the country, for the opening up and peopling of its homesteads, villages and cities, and that it would be unreasonable to expect at present the fruits which are certain at some subsequent period to be gathered; that the same remarks apply to canals and harbors, break-waters and graving docks. I am not going to say that this argument is without force, and although I believe that the period which lies between preparation and completion has not only been reached, but has passed, and that for some years at least, we should have had results which we have failed to find; although I think so, yet I am not disposed to weaken, by any words of mine, the force which such a statement may be expected to carry. But now that such a plea can be no longer raised, now that roads have been built, rivers deepened, canals enlarged and the whole system of rail and river communication perfected, let us have results. This House will look for them; let us be assured the country will.

I have spoken somewhat plainly; with the facts before me I do not see how I could have done otherwise.

These facts have revealed to my own mind a state of things for which I was not prepared, a state of things which, I think, cannot continue without danger. I trust, however, that honorable gentlemen have had no difficulty in realizing that they have not been presented in a spirit of hostility, and that their tenor has been so apparent that it is not necessary that I should disclaim any such intention.

I venture to think that the subject which