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Current Topics.

Canada's Progress.

At the banquet given at Quebec last week to the members of the Banker's Association of Canada, Mr. George Hague replied to the toast "On Material Resources." His speech has been well described as grand, and we hope that it has been as widely read as it deserved to be. Among other things he pointed out that whilst the increase of population in the United States has been twenty fold, in Canada it has been twenty-five fold, and that the development of this country cannot be measured with any sort of accuracy by the extent of its mileage or the growth of its population; that the development in the shape of savings and of increased business during the last forty years has been simply phenomenal, and in a ratio enormously in excess of the increase of population; that we have made the very most of such resources as Providence has placed within our reach; and that we have every reason, in spite of all drawbacks, to be most hopeful about the future of our country.

The Canadian Flag.

To-day we present in colours another design for the Canadian National Flag. It has been suggested by Mr. H. Spencer Howell and is commended by the Canadian Club of Hamilton. The white, seven-pointed star on the red fly of the Union Jack, suggested by Dr. Sandford Fleming, has met with considerable favour; but we find that anything in the way of a star is now so closely associated with the neighbouring republic that no small feeling has been aroused in Canada against having it even when affixed to the grand old Union Jack. One would think that such a combination would completely nullify any republican significance which is supposed to be attached to the star. But many thought otherwise, and the Editor of THE WEEK received many threatening letters on the subject demanding the withdrawal of the star. It seemed to have been forgotten that the design was not ours and that we had expressed no opinion on the subject. We mention these threatening letters as a matter of general interest. It shows what a strong national feeling there is in Canada, and how intense is the dislike for anything which seems to suggest republicanism. Dr. Sandford Fleming would be the last man, as THE WEEK would be the last journal, ever to advocate an emblem suggestive of anything but loyalty to Canada and to the British Empire.

Canada and the United States.

Relations to the Empire." The article is a most valuable

contribution to the great subject with which it deals, refuting as it does not only the misrepresentations relating to the present but levelling to the ground the whole fabric of fiction and myth on which the people of Great Britain have hitherto founded their opinions on matters connected with the relationship between Canada and the United States. We commend the article to the earnest attention of Mr. C. A. Dana, of the New York Sun, who is said to be the treasurer of the Continental Union Association, and whose paper is the foremost advocate of annexation of the Dominion to the Republic. It will lead him to understand and appreciate the difficulties if not the hopelessness of attaining the ends of the Association. Colonel Denison's article may be accepted as a truthful reflection of the sentiments and opinions of Canadians throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion. Under no condition that it is possible to imagine will Canada ever consent to political union with the United States. If such a notion were ever seriously entertained, which we very much doubt, the day has long since passed away. As Colonel Denison rightly says, the traditions of our people, their national spirit, their respect for the dead that have gone before, everything that would appeal to honour or sentiment, forbid such an idea. On moral grounds, on material grounds, everything is against it.

Canadian Cheese.

Next to No. 1 Manitoba hard wheat, Canadian cheese is, probably, the one Canadian agricultural production which has a higher reputation in Great Britain than that of any other country. The Dominion could hardly, therefore, be wounded in a more vital spot than that struck at by the recent statement of the North British Agriculturist that a considerable proportion of the so-called full-milk cheese received from Canada is really made from separated milk fattened with oleomargarine. It is to be hoped that the unambiguous and emphatic denial which was sent with commendable promptness by the Acting Minister of Agriculture will have the effect of killing the very injurious slander in its cradle. We suspected at once that the Agriculturist had confounded Canada with the United States, the average English editor it seems being quite unable to separate and distinguish the one from the other—very much to Canada's loss. So we were not surprised to read in the cable messages of Wednesday that "the editor of The North British Agriculturist admits and regrets the grave error made in using the word Canadian instead of American, and promises an editorial explanation, and the publication of evidence showing the purity of the Canadian product." Once again Canada has to suffer on account of Yankee rascally schemes and dodges to make money by illegitimate methods. We do not know which is the more exasperating, to be confounded with the Americans or to suffer from their numerous fake concerns and enterprises. Whilst we admire the readiness with which the Agriculturist acknowledged its egregious blunder we must say that to make such charges as it did without first assuring itself of the accuracy of its information displays a recklessness and want of consideration which is very greatly to be deplored.