

medium whereby the United States manufacturers and exporters can possibly establish firm connections and sound increase of trade." "The means must be comprehended if closer commercial and friendly intercourse is desirable." It is implied in all this that it is only necessary to take a keener interest and to make a closer study of the methods of promoting trade with those distant countries to secure the results. Mr. John Barrett, director-general of the Pan-American Union, declared that the "annexation bogey" had killed reciprocity with Canada, and wished the word to be spread that there is in the United States "no spirit of territorial aggrandizement" to obstruct the way to reciprocity, which he wished to see established "with Argentina, with Peru, Chili, Brazil and Mexico."

Steamship communication and banking facilities are good in connection with South America. The New York Journal of Commerce thinks that the fundamental difficulty in fostering greater trade between the United States and South America is that a policy has been long pursued in the neighboring republic which discourages rather than stimulates the desire and the power to trade abroad, except by selling surplus products of the soil which foreign nations seek to buy. "All stress has been laid upon the 'home market' for manufactures and its protection against foreign competition, in order that industries might be developed by high prices and large profits. This was natural in a young country of large area, great natural resources and small population which aspired to multiply industries and be self-sustaining. That stage is past, but the habit of mind which it fostered remains and the policy of protecting the home market is adhered to, with the necessary result of maintaining high costs and high prices. Foreign markets have been sacrificed for the benefit of the home market."

This may be true of the United States, but it is important that Canada should develop its valuable home markets, although at the same time we may well encourage, to the proper extent, the foreign markets.

#### WHEN JUDICIAL DOCTORS DISAGREE.

The York Radial Railway Company desired a double track in place of a single one on Yonge Street, Toronto. The Ontario Railway and Municipal Board said they had no power to grant this concession, and that the town of North Toronto could only give or withhold permission. The town refused permission. The railway company then applied to the board for permission to lengthen its switches on Yonge Street and to lay a new switch. Two of the three members of the board, Messrs. Ingram and Kittson, think that this application should be refused, as switches of approximately 2,000 feet long, at comparatively brief distances, practically equals a double track. The third member, and the chairman of the board, Mr. J. T. Leitch, K.C., disagrees, stating his opinion that under the company's franchise, it has a right to enlarge the switches when the traffic conditions demand it, and that both under its contract and under the common law, the company has not only the right to carry freight, but is compelled to carry freight if it is offered. This is the situation in brief created by a modern K.C. at the bat. According to a daily contemporary, Mr. Leitch has also said that he could not allow such an important matter to be tied by the opinions of a couple of laymen.

It looks as though the application for such lengthy switches is simply a roundabout way to obtain to what amounts to a double track. The intricacies of the position will no doubt be dissected in the Court of Appeal.

In the meantime, relations between Messrs. Ingram and Kittson, who gave a dissenting judgement, and Mr. Leitch, K.C., the chairman of the board, are probably strained. Mr. Leitch has decided opinions as to his

power. "I can only say," he remarks, "that the act creating our board says that where, in my opinion—in my opinion, mind—an application involves a question of law it is to be settled by me, and my finding is final." This raises the question as to whether or not a commission of three can give full value when required, if the finding of any particular one is final in any particular case.

#### SMALL CHANGE.

The New Liskeard fair was a further demonstration of the great possibilities of Ontario's Northland.

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Mr. Borden has added osculation with fair bouquet presenters as a new premial accomplishment of charm.

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A Montreal paper prints a story headed, "Pole with bullet in ribs, refuses aid and walks home." A correspondent suggests that the Pole was one of reinforced concrete.

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Every year Canada's fire waste totals not less than \$24,000,000. In four years the fire destruction, therefore, amounts to \$100,000,000. Which means that once every four years we burn the value of the wheat crop of the three prairie provinces.

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If some of the hundreds who, with a wink, say they know where Dr. Beattie Nesbitt is located, would earn two hundred dollars, he might be brought to the bar of justice. A stain on the escutcheon of the Ontario attorney-general would also be removed.

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Viscount Templeton was honorary president of the Farmers Bank, now being wound up. Viscount Templeton was a director of the Atlantic, Quebec and Western Railway, financed by the Charing Cross Bank, London, now being wound up. Viscount Templeton should pick with greater care his directorial company. These incidents tend to prove that a nobleman's name does not guarantee dividends.

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Once more the power of finance has been used in an endeavor to suppress war and revolution. The Chinese government appears to have enough ready money for a campaign of about two months, but, anxious for a reserve fund in view of the possibility of a more extended conflict with the revolutionists, applied for a loan of 5,000,000 taels, or about \$3,000,000, to the international bankers who arranged the \$50,000,000 currency reform loan. The group of financiers who represent four nations, the United States, Great Britain, Germany and France, were unable to agree to do this, and the loan was refused.

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Some time ago, Professor Miller, provincial geologist of Ontario, examined ore at Cobalt in an endeavor to find mercury. He was unsuccessful. The other week quicksilver was found in silver ore at the Nipissing Mines, and the experts of the Bureau of Mines are investigating the discovery. They will determine in what combinations of mineral bodies it is found and whether it is in large enough quantities to make the discovery commercially important. Canada appears to have almost all the minerals, and many of them in large quantities. Indeed, we have such a wealth of resources that our stocktaking will occupy many years.