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NEWFOUNDLAND AND CANADA.

It is the green hill far away that charms us most. The great things in prospect are more alluring than the modest possibilities of the moment. This disposition to look beyond—and often to overlook—the facts and duties immediately at hand, seems to be prevalent in trade as well as in philosophy. We find our neighbor the United States spending hundreds of thousands of dollars and publishing volumes of reports with the object of cultivating trade and of introducing United States manufacturers into South America and other parts of the world more distant and more alien, while Canada its nearest neighbor buys more United States goods than the whole continent of South America. Canada in her turn has commercial agents in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the West Indies, Norway and Sweden, and is establishing direct commercial relations with other countries more or less remote, while here at our Atlantic gateway is Newfoundland, one of the very best customers this Dominion has ever had, with no direct commercial representation on our part, and with a record of diplomatic dealings which has been no credit to this country. Indeed, it is questionable if a more criminal blunder was ever committed in the

political history of Canada, than that through which the negotiations opened up some years ago by the Newfoundland delegates for the entry of the Island into the Canadian confederation were broken off through the haggling over a matter of \$5,000,000. But it must be confessed that the halting and narrow spirit which has characterized our relations with Newfoundland has not been peculiar to any political party or period, but has been because of our immature notions of Imperial relationship. We had not yet learned to think of Newfoundland as our nearest sister in the Imperial family to whom we owed the duty of a little help and counsel. We were all absorbed in our own selfish concerns, and as is the case in individual life with extremely selfish people, we are reaping commercially what we sowed politically and morally.

We have nothing to say against the establishment of commercial agents in the British Colonies and other parts of the world, but these steps should have been taken and the weightier matter of relations with our nearest sister colony not neglected. Our United States neighbors at all events have not neglected their commercial opportunities—as they have active commercial consuls there—and the results will be seen in the figures which follow.

In 1886, out of a total trade of over \$7,000,000, Newfoundland did \$3,123,716 with Great Britain, \$2,132,850 with Canada, and \$1,961,263 with the United States. Of these totals the island's imports were as follows: From Great Britain, \$1,911,001, from Canada \$1,937,605, from the United States \$1,672,810. In 1893 Newfoundland's imports from Great Britain stood at \$2,680,853, from Canada at \$2,886,901, and from the United States at \$1,665,227. Coming down to 1903 we find a remarkable change in the positions of the three countries, for in this year the island imported \$2,143,464 from Great Britain, \$2,869,897 from Canada, and \$2,920,914 from the United States. This out of a grand total import of \$8,479,944, and a grand total export of \$9,976,504 from the island.

Taking the export side of the account we find that Newfoundland shipped goods in 1886 to the value of \$195,245 to Canada, \$1,212,715 to Great Britain, and \$288,453 to the United States; but in 1903 she exported the following amounts: \$2,173,000 to Great Britain, \$1,102,659 to Canada, and \$1,357,031 to the United States.

The reader will see that the United States has in these ten years gained relatively at the expense of both Canada and the Mother Country. Stated in terms of 100,000s., the United States has gained from 16 to 29, Great Britain has fallen from 26 to 21, and Canada has stood still. It must be remembered that the general foreign trade of Canada has more than doubled in the ten years referred to. There is a