

## Commercial Clippings

### DEPENDING ON DOMINION CROPS.

The Food Ministry in Britain is looking to the abundant harvests of Canada, Australia and India to enable it in the early spring to wipe out the bread subsidy and substantially reduce prices.

### CANADIAN BACON IN U. K.

Canadian Trade Commissioner Harrison Watson, London, England, has cabled that the importers' controlled selling price of Canadian bacon has been advanced to 225 shillings per cent. as from November 8.

### JAP PROBLEM AT COAST.

The British Columbia Court of Appeal, last week, declared to be ultra vires legislation enacted by the Government of the Province for the purposes of preventing the employment of Japanese under logging and timbering licenses.

### TRIAL OF SS. CANADIAN ROVER.

The Canadian Rover, the seventh and last boat built by the Collingwood Shipbuilding Company for the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, underwent successful official trials at Collingwood, Ont., last week and left for Montreal, Thursday.

### FAVOR WHEAT BOARD.

The unanimous adoption of the motion asking for re-establishment of the wheat board and the introduction of a motion asking the Dominion Government to take action in connection with liquor smuggling featured a session of the Saskatchewan Legislature last week.

### ST. JOHN BREAD DROPS CENT.

Bread dropped one cent, wholesale, at St. John, N.B., with a like drop in price by retailers. The wholesale price is now fourteen cents, while the retailers sell at from fifteen to sixteen cents. The difference in retail prices is due to the fact that while some retailers are willing to sell at one cent over the wholesale price, others believe that a two cent gross profit is a fair margin.

### FARMERS TO ORGANIZE STORES.

Over one hundred King's County farmers met at Kentville, N.S., and after considerable discussion they decided to organize a branch of the United Farmers of New Brunswick in their co-operative movement. A committee was also appointed to organize local branches in every community of the province. R. L. Palmer, of Welsford, was elected president.

### B. C. ASKS COAL PRICE ENQUIRY.

The Associated Boards of Trade of Eastern British Columbia have wired Premier Meighen, asking for an inquiry into the reasons for the recent advance in coal and coke prices and for the suspension for Coal Commissioner Armstrong's order pending the rendering of the decision. It is alleged that the advance adds fifty cents to smelting costs at the Trail Smelter.

### CANADIAN PREFERENCE IN TRINIDAD.

Mr. Edgar Tripp, Canadian Government Commercial agent at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, cables that all duties have been removed from food and cattle-stuffs produced in countries of the British Empire and that sufficient duties will be imposed on foreign goods to give Canada a preference.

### CHILE TO INCREASE DUTIES.

H. M. Chargé d'Affaires at Santiago reports in the British Board of Trade Journal that a measure is now before the Chilean Congress in which it is proposed that the existing Chilean customs duties should be increased by 30 per cent. It is proposed, however, that this increase shall not apply to certain commodities, including sugar, oil, coffee, cocoa, tea and rice.

### WHEAT CERTIFICATES.

Holders of participation certificates in last year's wheat crop must turn them into the hands of the Canadian Wheat Board in the World Building, Toronto, not later than January 1, 1921, in order to receive final payment, according to a statement made by C. B. Watts, local representative of the Wheat Board. An interim payment of thirty cents per bushel on the full payment of 48 cents per bushel has already been made. It is expected that the final amount, 18 cents per bushel, will be paid shortly before the end of the present month.

### TRADE OFFICE IN LONDON.

It is expected that during the visit of Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, to London, there will be a decision as to the closing of the overseas office of the Canadian Trade Commission. There is stated to be at present some overlapping in the work conducted by C. W. Nixon, who is conducting that office, and that carried on by Harrison Watson, Canadian Trade Commissioner. A change in the method of handling overseas trade matters in London has been predicted for some time, and the Minister is expected to work out an arrangement to this effect while he is overseas.

### FAVOR SALES TAX.

Discussion of the luxury tax occupied portion of the meeting of the Council of the Montreal Board of Trade held last week. Letters were submitted from the Halifax and St. John Boards of Trade urging the abrogation of the luxury tax, both bodies expressing the hope that the Montreal Board would also approach the Government with regard to the tax. The Council, being aware that the Wholesale Dry Goods Association of the Board has this matter under consideration, decided to wait until receipt of representations from that association before communicating with the Government. In discussing this matter it was evident that the Council was still averse to this form of taxation and was again, as when considering the proposed increase in taxation some months ago, inclined to favor the application of the sales tax to the retail trade.

## A View of Japan

### Senator Lorne C. Webster Sees Opportunity for Development of Trade Relations.

Returning to Montreal after an absence of several weeks spent in Japan, Senator Lorne C. Webster had some interesting observations to make on the life of that land in regard to education, industry and general development on occidental lines. The English language has taken a strong hold of the land of the Rising Sun.

"It was one of the things that struck me most forcibly," said Senator Webster, "for the English language is most widely spoken and is used as a second or alternative language; not merely as a matter of education, but in official ways, as, for instance, on the currency"—and here the speaker pulled out a hundred yen bill, on which was printed "One Hundred Yen", while Roman letters were used for figures as on Canadian notes. In railway stations and other public places, also, he stated, notices were published in English, the German language having been quite superseded. Germans, who at one time used to travel in Japan rather extensively, are now scarce, and many of those notices for travellers, which are reproduced in the leading languages, have suffered similarly, as in England and France today, by having the German rendering struck out.

These two facts of the widespread use of the English language and the antipathy towards Germany, led Senator Webster to the conclusion that herein lay an opportunity for the development of trade relations. Over there he had the privilege of meeting many prominent people in political and commercial life, and it had been impressed upon him that Canada should have more active trade relations with Japan, and that Canadian manufacturers and raw material exporters ought to take more advantage of that market than they do.

As to the industrial and financial activities of Japan, Senator Webster spoke of great developments in manufactures, in shipbuilding and in finance, mentioning the Osake Iron-works, capitalized at 12,000,000 yen, or \$6,000,000; the Mitsui Mining Works, with authorized capital of 50 million yen; the Mitsui Bank, with subscribed capital of 100 million yen, or 50 million dollars; the Yokohama Specie Bank, capital subscribed, 100 million yen. Also in shipping there was the Osake Steamship Company, with capital of 50 million yen and over 70 million reserve. Japan had gone greatly ahead in shipbuilding since the war, and this industry had produced many wealthy men. "Travelling in the train one passes through a country lined with manufacturing plants, most of which were well equipped, and had been used as munition plants during the war. Moiji is practically the Pittsburgh of Japan, with its big blast furnaces. At present Japan is suffering from over-expansion in the silk and sugar trade, but in time it is expected this will be straightened out, and in the meantime the Government are assisting the silk industry through the banks. With her iron mines at Shantung, and coal mines, which she would like to acquire in Siberian territory, where it is said there are 480 miles of coal pits, and with oil resources, Japan bids to become a strong and even formidable competitor in world trade, this all the more so because there is an abundance of labor."

### TRADE DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN CANADA AND BRAZIL.

Trade Commissioner G. B. Johnson writes from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as follows: The following extracts from the "Monitor Mercantil," the most important weekly commercial and financial journal of Brazil, in the Portuguese language, will be of interest:—

In an interview with the United Press, Mr. Eduardo Bordini, formerly Brazilian Consul in Montreal, affirmed that during next year will occur a great increase in trade between Brazil and Canada. "Up to the middle of 1919, trade between the two countries was of small dimensions. In the following months, however, because of the shipping facilities inaugurated by the ships of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, and the Houston Line, and of the direct banking facilities established by the Royal Bank of Canada in Brazil, trade became voluminous. During the present year (1920) the requests for information at the Consulate multiplied. The attitude of the Canadian Government and of Canadian manufacturers was one of great sympathy.

"Canada," continued Mr. Bordini, "exports to Brazil all kinds of paper, cement, inks, rubber and electrical supplies, and imports from Brazil coffee, raw rubber and other products."

"Some time ago trade between the two countries passed through New York, but present conditions encourage direct trade. The Canadian Government Merchant Marine has four ships engaged in the Brazil service, with monthly departures. It has in anticipation a new line for the ports of northern Brazil, which will be put in service as soon as prospective trade warrants it. Brazilian commerce through Montreal approaches that with the great French port of Marseilles, and indeed probably exceeds it. In the last two months I have received many letters from business men regretting the removal of the Brazilian Consulate from Montreal to Halifax."

It may be noted that the Brazilian Vice-Consulate, under the direction of Mr. Frank W. Mills, still remains in being in Montreal, and all Brazilian consular business in Montreal will be attended to by him.