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EXTENSION OF TRADE RELATIONS.

The appointment of Sir Alexander Galt as agent of Canada in England, was some time since made public. He has been spoken of as ambassador and minister, titles which belong to the representatives of foreign nations. The *Times* calls him a Canadian minister, resident in London, and says the holder of the office will always be a member of the Cabinet. The correctness of the latter statement is however denied. There is an evident intention to give to the position of the new agent all the weight and dignity that can attach to it, consistently with the conditions under which it is created. Canada, it is obvious, cannot invest her agent with diplomatic powers which belong to the representative of a foreign nation; and he can only be called upon to exercise such powers by authority which the British Government may invest in him. In that case he would derive his information and his instructions from Canada, and the higher part of his authority from Britain. The attempt to give prominence to this compound authority is altogether new. Something of the kind has been before attempted, for a special purpose; as when Lord Elgin assisted in negotiating the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States, and Mr. Brown was afterwards engaged in an unsuccessful attempt to renew that treaty in a modified shape. Mr. Mackenzie, when Premier, said it was the policy of his Government that treaties affecting Canada should be negotiated by Canadians. What he meant was, of course, no more than that when such work was to be done, the British Government should be asked to allow Canadians to take part in it. Mr. Blake, if we rightly understand him, has asked something more: that the right of Canada to make treaties with foreign powers should be recognized. But this would be impossible while Canada occupies the position of a dependency; for a treaty without a sanction—without power to enforce it—would be

so much waste paper. England will allow no treaties to be made by Canada that would in any way conflict with Imperial interests. Sir Alexander Galt may still find a sphere of usefulness as agent in England of Canada. He can prevent Canada suffering from a repetition of the neglect that excluded her from participation in the Cobden treaty. Like opportunities of attempting to secure benefits for Canada will occur in other quarters; and if they be not obtained, it will be some satisfaction to know that they are not lost by default on the part of this country.

The *Times* thinks the appointment of a Canadian minister in England opportune on account of the revival of the fishery question. We can hardly expect to be again so lucky as we were in estimating the price which the Americans were to pay for twelve years' use of our shore fishery. We can hardly expect to be always successful in a matter in which England has herself failed. The claim formerly made by England to the privilege of a close sea along her own coasts, with the consequent right of regulating the fishery to the distance of ten or a dozen miles from land, was open to dispute, and was disputed by other nations. If she had claimed less, she might have been enabled eventually to retain more. She, at first, relaxed her extreme claim in practice; and when she found other nations demanding as a right what she professed only to have allowed them by way of toleration, she attempted by laws and proclamations to enforce her full claims. But neither laws nor proclamations were much regarded; and it was the exception, not the rule, when foreigners took out a license to fish in British waters. The final result was that the attempt to preserve the British fishery failed, and that fishery became the common heritage of all nations. Our claim to the three mile limit is more moderate and reasonable, and its legality has never been questioned, if confined to that strip. But it has never been so confined; and the attempt to draw the line from the extreme headlands of great arms of the sea, called bays, has been a fertile subject of dispute. If we went on in the future as in the past, we should probably end by nominally preserving no more than the bare three mile limit, at any point, and being greatly liable to have that strip encroached on whenever the fish struck in shore. It would be far better for both countries that a permanent settlement of this fishery question should be made. A money payment is not the most natural form of agreement: it would be far better to make the fishery privilege the means of purchasing equivalent immunities in the American markets.

Sir John Macdonald (Ottawa Banquet speech) states distinctly that "we (Canada) sent Sir Alexander Galt—her Majesty's Government helping us—as ambassador to France and Spain for the purpose of opening up those markets." This means, we suppose, that Canada sent for this purpose an ambassador for England's acceptance, and that England did not object that he should co-operate with the British ambassadors in France and Spain. From the way in which things are talked about, a stranger would suppose that Canada was an independent country. Sir Alexander Galt describes Canada as a country almost imperceptibly moving on to the development of a great nation. "Years ago," he said (St. Andrew's Banquet, Montreal,) "the dread always existed in my mind that Canada was too small and narrow to be able to grow into an important nation itself; but since then the country has been shown to possess immense resources. I feel the danger has gone; that a few short years will give us a large population, not merely strong in themselves, but through their commerce, and that the future of our country is now assured." It is probably this feeling that causes our new agent in London to be regarded as a semi-ambassador, and spoken of somewhat loosely as a full grown one.

For the future growth of Canada, Sir Alexander Galt looks chiefly to the Northwest, in which we think he is right. Foreigners are beginning to contemplate with wonder the mighty field for agricultural development that is there spread out. For instance, the New York *Sun* says: "Supposing that the Canadians are right about the extent and richness of their wheat growing territory in the Northwest, the mind recoils from a computation of its productive capacity. Man has never before contemplated such an agricultural fact. Should this enormous Canadian wheat garden be successfully cultivated, its annual crop in favorable years would come into the business and interests of the entire globe with a revolutionary force and masterly power heretofore unknown to finance and trade."

What the "ambassador" we sent to France and Spain has done, Sir John told his Ottawa entertainers. "He has laid the basis of successful negotiations with both countries;" and the Government has received "the most cheering news from both Madrid and Paris of an early reciprocal commercial intercourse." The Anglo-French treaty would have expired before now by effluxion of time; but by common agreement it has been extended for six months to give an opportunity to negotiate for its renewal. If these negotiations be successful, Canada