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TRADE WITH THE WEST INDIES.

The Manchester Guardian learns that the Royal Commission on the subject of closer trade relations between Canada and the West Indies in its report will find it impossible to recommend any scheme for reciprocity trade relations that would embrace all the West Indian colonies.

The commissioners also consider a uniform tariff out of the question and strongly recommend that the West Indies grant reciprocal preference to Canadian products in return for Canada's existing preference of 33 1/3 per cent. It is also recommended by the commission that the West Indies concede similar preference to the products from the United Kingdom, and it is strongly argued that better steamship and telegraphic communications between the West Indies and Canada be obtained. The commissioners, the Guardian adds, do not attach any importance to the threats of American retaliation.

Commenting upon this brief outline, the Montreal Gazette says the report does not offer much reason for expecting any marked increase in the mutual commerce of the two sections of the Empire in question. This is not a matter of surprise. A good deal of attention has been paid by Canadian representative men to the possibilities of increasing the amount of inter-colonial trade, with only moderate effect on the exportables. Including British Guiana, which is in South America, the West Indies take of Canadian products about \$3,000,000 a year. The variation in five years up to 1909 was about a quarter of a million dollars, the larger figures being for the later years.

The reason for this is readily understood by those who have studied the situation. In the eight or ten administrative divisions grouped in general discussions as the British West Indies, the growing majority of the people are black, with a proportion of East Indians and some Chinese. Their earnings are small, but ample for their wants, which are simple and easily provided. The staple products of the islands supply most of the food used, and cotton cloth is all that the mass of the people need in quantity for clothing. There is no such consumption of the higher qualities and dearer classes of foodstuffs and wearing apparel, as would be noted in the case of a community of equal numbers of white people in the temperate zone.

Then each division or group has its own needs, which influence it in fixing its rates of customs taxation, and some have close trade relations of long standing with the United States, which local interests do not wish to disturb. No one arrangement could be made to cover all their cases, and the commissioners, as reported, do not recommend any scheme of general reciprocity. They do suggest that the West Indian colonies, each acting by itself, should make a return in kind for the preference given by Canada on West Indian products, notably on sugar, which has given the West Indies the greatest share of Canada's sugar trade, and swollen Canada's imports of West Indian and Guiana products to over \$5,000,000 a year.

It is recommended also that the preference extended to Canada should also be given to Great Britain, action upon which suggestion would probably leave the situation as regards Canadian exports much as it is. They will be wisest who do not look for much in the way of results from anything the West Indian governments can do to increase the demand for Canadian goods.

PROGRESSIVE LAND TAXATION IN AUSTRALIA.

The first measure to be introduced by the Labor Government in Australia and pushed through the Commonwealth Parliament was the progressive land tax. The essence of the progressive land tax is not taxation; the rates are fixed not to bring in revenue, but to have a certain effect on landowners. Briefly, the intention is to make the acquiring or holding of great areas of land, without putting them to the fullest use, an exceedingly expensive proposition. The measure is not directed against land-owning, but against a certain class of landowners; it is a campaign undertaken not in the name of any abstract or general proposition equally valid, or invalid, all the world over; it is a practical attempt to cure a particularly Australian disease.

The Australian correspondent of the National Review, in describing the vast, untilled areas of good agricultural land held by single owners, which have nothing on them but some sheep or cattle, writes:—

"As the train runs north out of Melbourne to Macclesfield, Bendigo and Echuca, it passes almost at once on to many miles of open plain—fairly good soil, to all appearances, but empty of habitations. Here is a description of part of that land, authorized by the owner: 'A great portion of it is suitable for agriculture. There are some hundreds of acres of black land on it, suitable for potatoes, onions, or any kind of root crops. The rainfall in the district is over 25 inches. Particular attention is drawn to the fact that this property is only 15 miles from Melbourne, and has never been cultivated. The owner is so proud of this that he repeats it: 'None of the land has ever been broken up—the purchaser of any block will have all new country.'"

That is one of the cases of Australia's disease—good agricultural land, twenty-five miles from Melbourne, a city of over half a million people, that has never been brought under the plough. Melbourne has more than half the population of the State of Victoria; and for years young Victorians have been leaving that State and settling in the north coast districts of New South Wales, because there has been no farming land obtainable in Victoria.

To quote again from the same correspondent:—Yesterday I was in a town which you will find marked

on most maps of Australia; on a map of New South Wales it would have the dignity of capital letters. Yet it has not enough population to pay for lamps in the streets. Outside the central batch of hotels and shops, which use acetylene gas, the town at night is as dark as nature chooses. And the last fifteen miles of the railway journey which took me there were through one man's property—90,000 acres for good chocolate soil, with a rainfall quite adequate for wheat-growing—on which one saw nothing the whole way but a woolshed with its huts and some sheep. Right up to the town itself the station runs; on one side of the fence is the empty land, on the other the staid town."

The Sydney Morning Herald, the leading paper of New South Wales and one of the leading papers of Australia, says:—"Almost every town is landlocked, suffocated, and at a standstill, surrounded by thousands of acres of rich land, suitable for cultivation, capable of supporting thousands of families but at present given over to stock and stations. Whether we go West or South the story is much the same. Here and there a splash of brighter color marks the advent of the closely settled area, but the bright spots are only sufficient to throw into bold relief the cold grey masses of unpeopled lands."

Such are the conditions in New South Wales, of the total population of which about one-third live in Sydney, a city of considerably over half a million people. Victoria, New South Wales, and Tasmania are the States in which the need of population is greatest and the evil of vast areas of land being devoted to sheep or cattle is greatest. The State Government of New South Wales is trying repurchase and subdivision of suitable estates—which naturally puts the price of land still higher, so that the Herald says:—"As a financial problem alone the project gets beyond the scope of practicability." The beauty of private subdivision is that any one can buy as much land as he likes, and several recently subdivided estates have in the end simply been partitioned by adjoining station-owners.

A drastic cure for the sort of landowning which is such an evil in Australia was suggested in the last Commonwealth Parliament not by an extremist Labor member but by Senator Millen, a member of the late Coalition Government, of which Premier Deakin was the head, and that Government's leading representative in the late Senate—for the Australian Senate is not like the Canadian Senate, but is elected. Said Senator Millen:—"Say that a man owned 50,000 acres of land in a district where 10,000 acres was a living area. I would make it law that 40,000 acres in excess of the living area must be sold by the owner; and, in the event of this instruction not being carried out, the Government should have power to come along with its auctioneer and sell the land itself." His objection to the progressive land tax was that it would accomplish nothing; "that absurd measure," he called it, "which would permit a public nuisance to exist in the country for all time, provided owners were willing to continue to pay a paltry tax."

It was the progressive land taxation policy which, more than anything else, put the Labor party in power. That policy is not the product of socialistic or communistic thought. It will be in operation before the end of this year; and, to quote the above-mentioned correspondent of the National Review, who writes from Australia, it "does not mean that Australia is in the hands of an anti-capitalist gang, from whose clutches the British investor should make haste to escape. They are the fulfillment of a people's demand, not a party's; they are the only possible remedy, as far as the wisest here can see, for the disease with which greedy and lazy land-accumulators have afflicted the Commonwealth."

METHODIST LEADERS.

When Rev. Dr. Carman was first appointed as General Superintendent of the Methodist Church he was the junior associate of the late Rev. Dr. Williams. At the time of Methodist Union two superintendents were required. It is not plain that the General Conference, after the death of Dr. Williams, showed wisdom in putting all the work of supervision upon Dr. Carman. The church extends from Newfoundland to the Pacific Ocean, and even crosses to Japan and China. One man could not attend to the countless chairmanships and other details which go with the office, and at the same time visit the various conferences with sufficient frequency.

Dr. Carman, who is the personification of energy, did his best, but of late years the new conditions brought about by the rapid settlement of the West made it plain that he was attempting the impossible. There was a formidable movement at Victoria to have three superintendents, but this was defeated. The church goes back to its former arrangement, Dr. Carman will be the senior superintendent, and Rev. Dr. Chown is named as his associate.

The work of Dr. Chown as the secretary of the Moral Reform Committee is well known. He possesses the diplomatic tact which enables him to deal even with a Parliamentary Committee, and the firmness which does not permit him to depart from his objective. He is no small bigot, but a man of broad vision and lively imagination. He will bring to the office a close personal knowledge of the problems of Methodism in the West as well as in the East, and undoubtedly will be a conspicuous success as an administrator.—Toronto News.

CURRENT COMMENT

(St. John Globe.)

The St. Andrews Beacon, a staunch opponent of the provincial government, joins in the discussion of the alleged bad roads to say that the automobile is responsible for many of the complaints made. It declares that it is a little unfair to expect the government to remove in a few years a condition that has taken a quarter of a century and more to bring about. As a solution of the road trouble the Beacon suggests placing the great roads between the towns of the province in a class by themselves, giving the maintenance and control of them to a non-partisan commission, the contributions for their maintenance to come from the government, from property owners whose properties border on these roads, and from the provincial automobile association.

(Hamilton Spectator.)

The suggestion that the I. C. R. should be extended through Ontario to the great lakes has back of it wisdom and sound sense. That it would be profitable for the railway is undoubted; that Ontario would be greatly advantaged thereby seems only reasonable to assume.

(Vancouver Province.)

Mrs. Ella Wheeler Wilcox epigrammatically observes, "To say that everybody is talking about a young man woman, but to say everybody is talking about a young woman is elegy." Oh U. Ellery!

(Montreal Star.)

The Ladies' Home Journal has an illustrated page telling how to train house flies to do tricks. The best trick is to teach them to make a noise like a corpse and keep up the performance.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

They are calling our first warship "the Rainbow" in order to emphasize the unsubstantiality of the so-called navy.

"THE DEED IS THE MAN"

The dream is the babe in the lovely nest.
And the rollicking boy at play;
The dream is the youth with the old, old zest.

For the rare romance of the day.
Then the deed strides forth to the distant goal
That has dazzled since life began;
For the dream is the child of the rampant soul
But the deed is the man.

The dream is the peak that is seen afar,
And the wish for the eagle's wings
The dream is the song to the beck'ning star
That the world wait fondly sings.

Then the deed comes crowned with the strength and skill
That doth perfect a golden plan;
For the dream is the child of the sovereign will—
But the deed is the man.

The dream is the mask that would make men fair,
And the boast that would count
The dream is the honors that heroes wear
And the glory that high hearts crave

Then the deed gives battle to pride and 'self,
As when a conqueror can;
For the dream is the child of the better self—
But the deed is the man.

No song was so sweet and no star so bright
As the dream of the Nazarene;
From Virgin's bosom to Calvary's height
It sang and it shone, serene.

Then the deed proclaimed Him King of His kind,
As the blood of the martyr ran;
For the dream was the Man!
—James C. McNally, in the National Magazine.

GOOD STORIES

"What is your last name, my boy?" asked the teacher of the new pupil, a frightened-looking youngster of some half-dozen years.

"Tommy,"
"Tommy Tompkins."
"Then Tompkins is your last name," turning to his record book.

"No, sir," came the reply, with the air of one accustomed to render literalness to inquiring elders. "I don't think so, sir. Tompkins was my name already when I was born, and aunt says they didn't give me the other for a whole month afterward."—Youth's Companion.

Then it Happened



Baby cried and cried.
Mamma and papa raced to the wall cabinet for the bottle of Aunt Dope's Soporific Syrup.

Baby was given two heaping teaspoonfuls.
This is now the third day, and the coroner says baby still sleeps.
(The End.)

JOSH WISE SAYS:
"The setting of the sun is something 'way beyond the jeweller's cut."

Mrs. X.—I despise that woman; she tries to make a cloak of religion.
Mrs. Y.—Yes, and she hasn't enough of it to make her a decent bathing suit.

Abe.—Went to one of them there roof gardens when I was in Noo York.
Hiram.—What do they raise on 'em, Abe?
Abe.—Peaches, by gosh!

Mrs. Fidd.—Did you stop at the Hotel Savoy when you were at Ems?
Mrs. Fadd.—Oh no, indeed! The trunk labels you get at the Angleterre are ever so much prettier.

Curate (to lady who has taken refuge in a ditch from a flock of cows):—Didn't I assure you that a cow is only dangerous when it has lost its calf?
She.—That's why I was frightened. I couldn't see a calf anywhere.

I. C. R. RELIEF FUND REPORT FOR MONTH

Moncton, N. B., Aug. 27. — Three deaths, two by accident, have broken the ranks of the I. C. R. Employees' Relief and Insurance Association for the month ending August 25th, according to Sec'y. Paver's report.