

cities is Buenos Ayres, having nearly a million and a quarter inhabitants, and Rio de Janeiro with fully a million. That a continent of such vast possibilities can long remain undeveloped, and that when developed it will be kept in leading strings by the United States, as some of the most prominent men in that country like to believe, seems to us to be beyond credence.

Canada's trade with these two great South American countries is almost a negligible quantity. With Brazil in 1910 our total trade barely exceeded \$1,000,000; with the Argentine Republic, our total trade in 1911-12 barely exceeded \$1,400,000. That there are many opportunities for increasing this trade with both countries is evident from examination of the imports and exports. In a measure, the Argentine Republic is a competitor of Canada especially in grain growing and in cattle raising. However, as our cattle raising business has been reduced to a negligible quantity, the only way in which the Argentine Republic competes with the Dominion is in a matter of grain growing.

Last year Argentina exported over \$57,000,000 worth of beef to Great Britain.

We, in Canada, are accustomed to think we are making a world's record for increased business, when, as a matter of fact, we are being out-distanced by the Argentine Republic. In the past ten years our imports have increased by 135% as compared with 187% for the Argentine Republic. Our exports of domestic products have increased by 35% as compared with an increase of 107% in our South American rival. Despite the fact that we are rivals to some extent, there are many opportunities waiting Canadian Business men. The Republic offers excellent opportunities for the export of print paper, machinery, lumber, fish and any other commodities which we are able to supply. To a lesser extent, the same is true of Brazil. This country is going ahead at a very rapid rate, but up to the present time, Canada has made no serious effort to capture any large portion of its trade. The Canadian Trade Commissioner in Brazil makes the suggestion that it would be a profitable thing for Canadian Business if branches of Canadian Banks were established in three or four of the larger cities in Brazil and Argentina. He points out that it would only be a short step from Mexico and the West India Islands to Brazil and Argentina and as our Canadian Banks have branches in Mexico and the West Indies, the extension of the system would not be a very drastic move. He states that the establishment of a bank would do more to foster trade between Canada and the South American countries in question than any other means he knows of. We commend this suggestion to our bankers for their careful consideration.

EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF PEOPLE IMPROVING.

Business men who are interested in securing increased efficiency among their employees will be pleased to know that the educational status of the people is on a higher plane than it was a decade ago.

According to a recent census return the number of persons under five years of age was 883,508, leaving 6,323,135 persons whose educational acquirements were recorded in the census of June, 1911. The increase in the population five years of age and over from 1901 to 1911 was 33.72 per cent.; during the same period the number of those who can read and write increased by 43.48 per cent., while the number of those able to read only decreased by 74.64 per cent. In 1901 there were 680,132 persons in Canada who could neither read nor write, in 1911 the number was 667,340, a decrease of nearly two per cent. in 10 years.

Persons who can read and write constituted 88.93 per cent. of the population of five years of age and over in 1911 as against 82.88 per cent. in 1901; those who can read only were 2.74 per cent. in 1901 as against one-half of one per cent. in 1911, and the illiterates, classing as such, persons who can neither read nor write, represented 14.38 per cent. of the population five years of age and over in 1901 as against 10.55 per cent. in 1911, a betterment of 3.83 per cent. in the decade.

The improvement in the educational status of the population of Alberta and Saskatchewan is strikingly illustrated by the fact that the percentage of those who can read and write has increased from 1901 to 1911 by 22.16 per cent. in Saskatchewan and 17.25 per cent. in Alberta; there being of course a corresponding decrease in the number of illiterates. In this connection it may not be out of place to mention that during the year 1910 Saskatchewan found it necessary to establish 254 new school districts and Alberta 251 to keep pace with the educational requirements of their rapidly increasing population.

Ontario still leads among the provinces as having the greatest percentage of persons five years of age and over capable of reading and writing. Of the Eastern provinces Quebec has made the greatest proportionate increase from 1901 to 1911 in the number who can read and write.

The showing made by the census return while fairly satisfactory leaves much to be desired.

Among a rich and prosperous people like the native Canadians there is no excuse for any boy or girl being unable to read or write.

In this age of keen competition and commercial warfare the best possible education is none too good. The remarkable expansion of Germany as a commercial and industrial na-