

BUSINESS AND SENTIMENT.

Sentiment is one consideration and business is another; but when they are combined, as in the case of the Canadian Australian Mail Steamship Service, we have two of the strongest forces working in harmony with the object of developing a commercial connection which cannot fail to ensure to the highest advantage of both. The old trade idea of the British Colonial system is being reproduced, it is true, under the auspices of the Mother land who will certainly benefit by the departure; but the bringing together in this way of the two greatest dependencies of the British Empire is a voluntary step towards their closer union, and probably is in the direction of giving shape and realization to the idea, if not of Imperial Federation, at least of cementing more closely the bonds which unite Anglo-Saxons and of increasing the influence that they have upon the world's destinies.

There will, as the *News-Advertiser* has it, be a tendency—other things being equal—for British subjects in each and all of these great lands to carry on as much as possible of their increasing commercial intercourse by means of a connected rail way and steamship system all owning and willingly rendering allegiance to the same great Empire. Moreover, as the same paper says: "The possibility of a great British Imperial Federation, in part political in part commercial, is in fact distinctly brought within closer range by this Canadian-Australian venture." We leave to the political papers and the people whom they specially represent the task of talking about such things as imperial defence, for we look forward to the time which is hastened by such peaceful occurrences as the one referred to

When the war drum throbs no longer,
When the battle flag is furled
In the Parliament of Man,
The Federation of the World."

We may observe that to enable the best results to be achieved by better communications between Canada and the colonies, there will require to be certain tariff modifications, which we do not anticipate will be seriously objected to. It is a matter of business as well as sentiment, and, as has been before said, they are two exceedingly strong forces.

THE ST. PAUL CONVENTION.

We observe that at the reciprocity convention which was recently held at St. Paul, Minn., the subjects of reciprocity, deep water ways and transportation were dealt with in the resolutions which were adopted. Among those present were Hon. W. Springer, chairman of the Ways and Means committee of the U. S. House of Representatives. He strongly advocated reciprocity with all the states on the American continent. He would not, he said aid, abet or suggest anything in the form of Canadian government, while the connection between Canada and Great Britain need not and, he added, cannot interfere with proper reciprocal trade connections. He spoke of interstate trade having been beneficial to the entire Union, and asked what argument in its favor

could not be applied to trade between the Dominion and the United States? Restricted trade between them had, he urged, been only brought about by the individual selfishness of special interests. He, therefore, favored the appointment of an international commission on the part of the United States to treat with a like commission appointed by the Dominion of Canada for the purpose of submitting to the respective governments a treaty of reciprocity embodying as far as possible a free exchange of the products of the two countries.

In this province a free interchange of a variety of products would be of immense advantage. We are handicapped to a large extent by the National Policy, having to make purchases across the line because of the immense distance from the Canadian bases of supply, while for some of our resources the most eligible market is among our neighbors. Here is something for our merchants to consider, which, if they did, they would in all probability transmit a memorial to Ottawa on the subject. The time is a favorable one, the Government are considering tariff reform and the proceedings of the St. Paul reciprocity convention, with which the unrestricted faddists have had nothing to do, are yet fresh in the public as well as the ministerial memory.

NOT PROTECTED.

Mr. David Lawrie, general manager of the Albion Fire Insurance Co., of London, England, has recently been in Victoria and has taken stock of our fire facilities. In the first place he says we are not adequately protected. There are, he considers, ample facilities for a first-class blaze; the engines are not much good; there are not sufficient hydrants and there is by no means enough water pressure. He holds that Chief Deasy asks in no way more than he ought to have in those reports of his which were recently sent in and left for subsequent action; but we may observe that before the time ordinarily taken to deal with such matters comes, it may be too late. These are remarks that well deserve consideration by the Board of Trade, who should make representations to the municipal authorities.

UNEMPLOYED LABOR.

The Trades Council of Victoria has recently passed a resolution in contradiction of the published report that the contractor for the Victoria and Sidney Railway had found it difficult to secure laborers for the grading of the road, the fact being that it is to the knowledge of the council that there are plenty of men who are out of employment in this city who would willingly work for a living wage. Moreover, it was pointed out that whereas it was understood that one of the reasons why the vote for the new Government buildings was passed last session was that it would give employment at decent remuneration to numbers of unemployed laborers, there are many who are daily turned away by the contractors, who, it is said, decline to give proper pay for ten hours on which they insist. Were the work done by the

Government, instead of by contractors, it is hardly likely that there would have been this complaint.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

ABOUT one-third of the shareholders of the Commercial Bank of Australia, who reside in Melbourne, are women who are in no position to meet any call that may be made upon them, and it is probable that not one-third, probably not more than one-half, of the amount that may be asked for to meet calls will be obtained.

It is said that not less than one hundred and twenty cities in the United States own their own electric lighting establishments. Several of them, from the profits derived from the commercial arc and incandescent lights furnished by them, are able to pay all the expenses of the plants and furnish the street lights without cost to the taxpayer. How long will it be before Victoria is able to do this?

In Chicago and elsewhere, as well as in several cities of the coast, there has been considerable financial excitement since our last, but the worst of it is all over. There have been several suspensions, but the sky is once more comparatively clear, as it always is after a thunder storm, which frequently does some damage, but is on the whole productive of good, as it lightens up things and relieves everything from the depression that impended.

It is announced in the telegrams from Paris that the conclusion of the Anglo-Russian agreement as to sealing during 1893, is regarded as a strong argument against the American claim of exclusive rights in the Sea to the exclusion of the British. Great Britain's representatives are, it is said, determined to abide by their interpretation of the arbitration treaty, and not upon that enunciated by American Counsel when Lord Hannen announced in effect that if it prevailed the Arbitration would be little better than a solemn farce.

THE *Canadian Trade Review* has an article commenting on a remark by the *Nelson Tribune* that the Kootenay Lake country is being hurt more by the ill-advised booming of a lot of unregenerated liars than it is by a backward spring. It also refers to "The Gold Nugget Mining Company, of Duncan River," which is described by another local paper as a pure fake and got up to swindle. To this it adds. "This is rather startling news from the Kootenay district, where we thought everything was booming, but wherever there are good mines, the liar and the swindler will come in. We warn our readers against wild cat mines, but we also warn them not to abandon their faith in Kootenay Lake mining because a few swindling operations are discovered." Our contemporary is perfectly right in what it says. There are, it is true, several fakes that are being worked for the benefit of the unwary; but for all that the Kootenay is a wonderful mining country, and will pay the liberal embarkation of capital and energy.