

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LXIV.

Vol. XVIII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1902.

{ THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME LIII.

No. 50.

The Embargo on Cattle.

The embargo placed by the Imperial Government upon cattle shipments from New England ports, and from Canadian ports if the cattle have passed through any part of the New England States, is embarrassing to the trade and in some aspects of it seems unreasonable. Because of the prevalence of the foot and mouth disease in the States of Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, the United States Government has prohibited the exportation of cattle from those States to other parts of the Union, but the quarantine does not extend to Maine and New Hampshire in which States, it is claimed, the disease does not exist. There appears therefore to be no reason whatever why western cattle coming to St. John by the C. P. R. and crossing an unsettled corner of the State of Maine in bond, should be placed under embargo in British ports, while no such restriction is placed on cattle shipped from New York, seeing that New York State is contiguous to quarantined States, while Maine is not. The embargo affects injuriously the interests of the C. P. R. and the port of St. John. The Intercolonial is said to be able and willing to handle all the cattle freight which the C. P. R. and the Grand Trunk may hand over to it at Montreal. But the C. P. R. declines to make this arrangement, holding that it is not in its interests to do so. It is probable, however, that if the relations between that road and the Government were more cordial the arrangement would be effected. It is understood that efforts are being made to secure a withdrawal of the embargo, so far as it applies to cattle passing in bond across the State of Maine by the C. P. R. to St. John, but the success of these efforts is doubtful. The British Government is not easily moved to recede from a position taken in such a matter, and the influence of those representing the agricultural interests in Great Britain would probably be exerted strongly against the proposed change.

Since the above was in type it is learned that the C. P. R. has withdrawn its objections to transferring its cattle shipments to the I. C. R. at Montreal.

An Unlikely Story.

A sensational and very unlikely story has been lately published in the *National Review* of London. The story has reference to the German Emperor, and states that "when cruising in the Hohenzollern off the coast of Norway this summer, the Emperor saw the Stars and Stripes floating from a large yacht. He immediately sent a message on board, announcing that he proposed to honor the American yacht with a visit, and subsequently went on board himself, where he found a small family party, which he presumed to be all Americans. His hosts were flattered and delighted at the honor, for the Emperor charms all men, but they were somewhat surprised at the violence of his attacks upon England, which he described as a decadent nation, and our Government rotten, while the strongest abuse of all was reserved for King Edward. The astonishment of the Americans was great, but still greater was the amazement of a solitary Englishman who happened to be one of the party, and who evidently had been overlooked in the general introduction." The strangest thing about this remarkable story is that the *National Review* should seem to give it credence, saying that it has it from a credible American source. One would say that the story is probably a canard throughout. It is extremely improbable that the German Emperor would pay a visit to a private American yacht, and still more improbable that on such an occasion, if it occurred, he would indulge in the remarks attributed to him. However, in view of the lack of good feeling existing between the peoples of the two countries, the preposterous story may possibly find some credence in England.

President Roosevelt Against the Trusts.

At the opening of a new session of Congress on Tuesday last, President Roosevelt gave prominence in his message to the duty of Congress in reference to the regulation of "those big corporations commonly doing an inter-State business, often with some tendency to monopoly, which are popularly known as trusts." The President recognizes the right of capitalists to combine their capital, but he recognizes also a tendency on the part of such combinations to the abuse of the powers conferred upon them, and insists upon the duty of Government to guard the interests of the people from the consequences of such abuse of power. The necessary regulation in this matter, he holds, cannot be secured by State action. It must therefore be achieved by national action. The power of Congress to regulate inter-State commerce, the President holds to be an absolute and unqualified grant and without limitations other than those prescribed by the constitution. He therefore believes that monopolies, unjust discriminations which prevent or cripple competition, fraudulent overcapitalization, and other evils in trust organizations and practices which injuriously affect interstate trade can be prevented under the power of the Congress to regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several States, through regulations and requirements operating directly upon such commerce, the instrumentalities thereof and those engaged therein. Concluding this reference to this matter of the trusts the President says: "I earnestly recommend this subject to the consideration of the Congress with a view to the passage of a law reasonable in its provisions and effective in its operations, upon which the questions can be finally adjudicated that now raise doubts as to the necessity of constitutional amendment. If it proved impossible to accomplish the purposes above set forth by such a law, then, assuredly, we should not shrink from amending the constitution so as to secure beyond peradventure the power sought." Notwithstanding the earnestness with which the President urges this matter it appears to be the general opinion that there will be no legislation on the subject by the present Congress.

Coal Mining in Canada.

The growth of the coal-mining industry in Canada during the past twenty years has been rapid, as will be seen by statistics published by the Labor Gazette in its November issue. In 1875 Nova Scotia produced 930,316 tons and British Columbia 109,361 tons, a total of 1,039,974 tons. Five years later the total output was 1,482,714 tons, of which Nova Scotia supplies 1,177,669 tons and British Columbia 305,045 tons. In 1885 the total by the same proportionate growth reached 1,920,977 tons, and in 1890 Manitoba, with the Territories and New Brunswick, were added to the coal mining Provinces, the former with a yield of 128,953 tons and the latter with 7,110 tons. The total for that year was 3,084,682 tons, of which Nova Scotia contributed 2,181,033 tons and British Columbia 767,586 tons. The total for 1895 was 3,478,344 tons, and for 1900 there was an output of 5,608,666 tons. During that year Nova Scotia produced 3,023,536 tons, a greater quantity than the entire product of the Dominion five years earlier. During the following year, 1901, Nova Scotia produced 3,834,360 tons, British Columbia 1,529,210 tons, Manitoba and the Territories, including the Yukon, 375,275 tons, and New Brunswick 10,000 tons, making a total of 5,748,845 tons. Of the British Columbia product about 68 per cent. was sold for consumption in the United States. The chief producing districts in British Columbia are the Crow's Nest Pass, which is the most easterly,

Nanaimo and Comox, on Vancouver Island, and Queen Charlotte's Island, the latter containing anthracite which may some day be made commercially accessible. Manitoba and the Territories have several large areas producing lignite. In some places it grades to a much better quality, and in one instance it is classed as anthracite. The Souris River and Belly River fields produce good lignite, the Lethbridge collieries are increasing their output, and at Anthracite there are the only mines in Canada producing anthracite coal for domestic consumption.

Canada's Dairy Business.

The satisfactory position of Canada's dairying business for 1902, says the Montreal Witness is briefly told in the fact that compared with last year our exports of cheese increased approximately some 17.75 per cent. and of butter about 31.65 per cent. in volume. For some years past our cheese has been the chief factor in the British market, and many considered that we had reached the high water mark in this direction, that, indeed, any expansion of Canadian milk manufactures must come by way of butter. But the event proves that under favorable circumstances new high water marks may be reached, and that our farmers are alert and ready to take advantage of all legitimate means of increased profitable trade. The course of prices has been very fortunate this year for the farmer, as stocks were light in the beginning of the year and the United States competition in the British market has fallen off to an appreciable extent in consequence of increased consumption at home. The extra good quality of our cheese this year had also a good deal to do with keeping it in the front rank of favoritism. It is because of these contributing causes that while the volume of cheese exports shows an increase of 17.75 percent, the value of the cheese increased some 43 percent. Thus, in 1901, the volume of cheese was approximately 1,791,610 boxes, compared with 2,109,200 for 1902, while the money value for these goods received by the farmer in 1901 was approximately \$12,541,290, and \$17,928,000 for 1902. Not only has butter increased in volume about 31.65 percent compared with last year, but the money value has increased in almost exactly the same proportion, and the trade is now in such a position that there is every incentive to increase this commerce enormously. We exported some 539,840 packages of butter to England this year, of a money value to the farmer of \$7,936,120, compared with exports of 410,000 packages last year, of a money value of \$6,027,000. This is very satisfactory indeed as a comparison, and more so if we contrast the present business with 1896, when the exports were only 157,320 packages, valued at \$1,890,000. It is, however, still a very little thing when the total butter imports of Great Britain are taken into consideration, and in this trade, if we continue to conduct it intelligently and, above all, honestly, sparing no pains to improve, we may hope for proportionate increase in both volume and value for many years to come. Good butter making will always be good business.

The London Express says there is every prospect of a satisfactory conclusion of the negotiations between Lord Lansdowne and M. Delcasse for a settlement of outstanding differences between Great Britain and France, including the French shore, New Caledonia and Morocco questions. The paper adds that meanwhile another movement is on foot aiming at closer Anglo-French relations. The supporters of this movement look to the appointment of a joint committee, to which disputes between the two countries can be referred, following the lines of the proposed Anglo-American treaty of arbitration of 1897. The proposal has been submitted to nearly all the French chambers of commerce, where it has been enthusiastically received. It is also warmly indorsed by the principal English trades unions and many prominent Englishmen.