

CANADIAN INTERESTS OVERSEAS.

Views of Allan Steamship Changes—The French Trade Treaty.

Monetary Times Office,

London, Eng., Sept. 15th.

During the last two months there has been a noticeable absence of the speculative Canadian who has arrived upon the scene with some gilt-edged mining, or oil, or timber proposition. That class of energetic citizen who has been so much in evidence during the last year and a half assures everybody that patriotism alone has induced him to slip away to England with this choice proposal which he could so readily dispose of in Chicago or New York. The absence of this class from the fashionable hotels is much to be thankful for, since Canada's credit in many ways has been greatly impaired by transactions of this sort. For the moment there is much discussion in the city as to the wisdom or unwisdom of the action of the Allans in transferring headquarters from Glasgow to Montreal, but as far as the Canadian Colony is concerned nothing but rejoicing is heard, and the wonder is freely expressed as to when the Grand Trunk will follow in the wake.

In railroad circles, the death of Harriman has been a disturbing factor, and much speculation has taken place as to the result of the meeting between Lord Strathcona and Mr. J. J. Hill, particularly at this juncture. In grain and speculative circles the interest always centres upon the yield of the West, and up to date reports have been so conflicting that perhaps the average man is less optimistic as to the result than he was a short time ago. The report of the Dominion Millers' Association adds perhaps a little color to this, as they are reported to have placed the Western yield at 115 million bushels. Again, there is considerable discussion as to the statements of the secretary of this organization that the Ontario crop is in a promising condition, the yield being from 35 to 45 bushels to the acre, with a weight of from 62 to 66 pounds per bushel. The question has been asked me, "If Ontario is yielding from 35 to 45 bushels and your average yield is about 18 bushels, what miserable crops the Western farmer must be getting, and how can the poor fellow who falls below the average manage to make ends meet if wheat falls at all in price? Some explanation along this line would be gratefully received by many interested people in this country.

Something Was Lacking Here.

During the last few days the latest Canadian papers have been carefully scanned by many who have been impressed by Earl Grey's strong appeal for British co-operation in Toronto's Great Fair, and persons who fail to gather information regarding the show in advance, through apparently lack of proper organization at this end were hopeful of gathering from papers just to hand a fairly good idea of what the show really meant. They, therefore, naturally expressed disappointment when they found the descriptive columns of the daily press devoted to the oft-repeated and always interesting words of Lord Charles, and the complimentary and instructive remarks of other estimable gentlemen, followed by accounts of the number in attendance, the graphic description of performances in front of the grand stand, the deplored of insufficient light, the efforts to restrict the insinuated demoralising effect of side shows, etc., etc., followed by paid accounts of various exhibits described, not because of their intrinsic value, but because of the so much a line that papers receive, while the educational value of the exhibit and the important place it occupies deservedly as a National institution for the development of trade, for the encouragement of efficiency, for the improvement of stock of all kinds, and lastly but not least the impression upon the Canadians themselves as well as the world at large what Canada has, does, and may do. These people, therefore, naturally, are disappointed, that this side so forcibly referred to by the Governor-General has been missing in a large measure from the reports.

As to Fruit Exports.

As usual at this time of the year much interest is taken in the anticipated shipment of Canadian apples, and buyers are already seriously considering the matter of grading and packing. But one cannot too much deplore the action taken in a certain Ontario city in passing such meagre judgment upon the offending shipper who rebranded his apples to a higher grade at the port of shipment, thereby bringing discredit upon the standard of fruit which certainly deserves the first rank in this market.

The export fruit trade is deserving more careful consideration from both the Governments and the Boards of Trade than it has heretofore received. The standards must be maintained and the proper assorting of sizes and painstaking care in packing should be insisted upon. It is stated

that the shipments of last season were in many instances less carefully attended to in this respect than the preceding year, and now is the time for prompt and careful action.

The French Treaty is rousing more interest in Paris and manufacturing centres in France than was at first supposed, and it seems a pity that information is so difficult to obtain. If Canada is to gain all that is in it as far as this treaty is concerned, great care must be taken to educate the French both as to their export and their import.

Some Hints as to French Trade.

To the average French trader Canada is somewhere in America, and the most experienced has but a foggy idea of where. For instance, a large middleman said the other day, "Yes, we have an important connection in America, and doubtless as we are established in the Argentine, we will run over to Canada and the other States," and this is by no means an unusual conception of the geographical position of Canada, the United States, etc., etc. It must also be remembered that the French are naturally a suspicious people, and that the more energetic and speculative Canadian must exercise great patience in the development and establishment of this trade.

Considering the arrangements as between the two countries, the Canadian exporter certainly has the best of it, and if full advantage is not taken of the carefully prepared and thoughtfully worked out scheme, it will be entirely the fault of the Canadian.

FIRE AND MARINE NOTES.

The Lumber Insurance Company of New York has been registered in Alberta. * * * *

Peterboro has been notified by the fire underwriters association that the key rate has been reduced 25 cents per \$100. * * * *

Portage La Prairie, Man., is in dilemma. An incendiary has been busy recently, and the town is without a fire chief. * * * *

Mrs. W. F. McMullen was burned at the Peterboro, Ont., exhibition. A grass fire, starting from a cigar stub, ignited her dress. * * * *

At Portage La Prairie, Man., recently, a fire broke out in a general store. A five quart pail of pickles in vinegar quenched the flames. * * * *

The Quaker Oats Company of Peterboro have installed an improved fire protection system. A satisfactory test was made by the fire chief. * * * *

At a Birmingham, England, political meeting, several suffragettes were dislodged from the roof of the building, with the aid of fire hose, thus again demonstrating its value. * * * *

The North Empire Fire Insurance Company has been registered in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The head office for the Manitoba is at Winnipeg, and Mr. D. H. MacDonald is the representative. * * * *

Canada's fire losses for the first eight months of 1900, as compiled by the Monetary Times, were \$12,712,411, while in the same period 115 persons lost their lives in fires. Will you help to stop this waste? * * * *

The property owners of Victoria are looking forward to a material reduction in fire insurance rates, owing to the improvements being made in the fire department and water-works. The rates in some cases have increased 57 per cent. during the past three years. * * * *

Mr. Robert Howe, inspector of the fire insurance underwriters, has reported on the water pressure and fire equipment of Ottawa. One fire engine was found out of order and had to be stopped during a test for seven minutes owing to leaking points in the suction pipe. * * * *

Chief Fire Warden, C. W. Gladwin in his report to Hon. F. J. Fulton, Chief Commissioner of Lands, Victoria, B. C., stated that no serious fires had occurred during August, in British Columbia, some twenty thousand feet of poor timber in district 2 being burned. The fires to date, he states, have decreased over 75 per cent. from last year's fires, and August is generally the worst month of the year for fires. The worst fires have been in the interior and the complaint is made that the railway companies do not use the prescribed screens on the smokestacks of locomotives. To confirm evidence submitted by lumbermen, an official is being sent from Ottawa to investigate.