

—It is interesting to recall that the total foreign trade of Canada doubled in the ten years 1895 to 1905. In the year first-mentioned the imports were \$105,252,511 in value, and the exports \$113,638,803—this being one of our "economic" years, when exports exceeded imports—total, \$218,891,000. In the fiscal year 1905 our imports were \$261,912,000, our exports \$203,316,000; total, \$465,228,000. It would not be an extravagant estimate that, with population increasing at its present rate, and with a continuance of the existing activity in production and commerce, we shall have by ten years from the present time, a foreign trade of one thousand millions of dollars. Such an estimate is justified if we multiply the external trade of Canada in 1905 by two.

HOME TRUTHS.

Sir Thomas Shaughnessy spoke some plain truths to Britishers when, in a speech before the Canada Club in London, at which the Colonial Secretary was present, he commented on the neglect of British ministers and permanent officials to visit and become acquainted with the actual conditions prevailing in the respective sections of the Empire they were charged to govern. He contended that such an official as the permanent head of the Canadian Department of the Colonial Office ought by rights to spend three months of every year in Canada. What is more, this gentleman was present, and heard Sir Thomas' remarks.

Certainly, it is most extraordinary, the manner in which Government officials in the Mother Country apparently look upon their positions. We are not speaking of them as particular individuals, but as types, for neither political party seems better or worse than the other in the production of officers who will take the slightest trouble to come to headquarters to look into the matters they might be supposed to know about at first hand. One might be led to believe that each one looks upon Canada, or the particular part of the Empire the interests of which he is supposed officially to look after, as the place to be particularly shunned, at any rate until such time as he shall hold no governmental connection with it. At least, we believe it to be a fact that no British minister while in office has ever visited Canada. If the King comes here on a visit, however, as he is now pressingly invited to do, he will set the fashion.

If Sir Thomas Shaughnessy's frank words should perchance bring about a little questioning on the part of those in authority at Downing Street as to the exact why and wherefore of this strange aloofness, they will have done good work, for surely the instant such a strange defect in the home Briton's method of dealing with his fellow-Britons' interests is brought to his unobservant eye, he cannot fail to rectify it. The Imperial Government's policy of knowing as little as it can about the colonies is one that has lasted long enough; perhaps Mr. Chamberlain has already punctured it.

LIVERPOOL MARKET FOR CANADIAN WOODS.

The monthly circular of Farnworth & Jardine, dated 1st May denotes a slight decline in the quantity of Canadian timber and lumber reaching that port since 1st January as compared with the same period in former years. The business of April although quiet has been of a steady character, and values all round have been well maintained. Imports have been on a moderate scale, the deliveries fair, and stocks are light, though quite sufficient, the new import season being almost in sight.

As to Canadian woods, the demand for waney pine has been quiet, but stocks are light, and values firm. For square pine there has been little enquiry, but there is only a small stock, and values are firmer. Red pine: The demand is limited. Oak: The demand shows improvement

and the stock is low; prices are strong. Elm: There is no improvement in the demand to report, but stocks are moderate; prices rule high. Pine deals: The import consists of a few small consignments per liners; the consumption has been fairly satisfactory, and stocks are in a more moderate compass; values are firm with an upward tendency. Red pine deals: There is little change to report.

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia spruce and pine deals: The arrivals to the Mersey during the past month by the liners from St. John, N. B., and Halifax, N. S., amount to 2,920 standards, against 3,050 standards during the corresponding month last year; the deliveries have again been satisfactory, stocks are in a fairly moderate compass, and values are steady. Pine deals: Quiet demand.

Birch in the log has arrived more freely, the consumption has been fairly satisfactory but prices are easier; stocks are sufficient. Of planks the import has been heavy, deliveries fair, but stocks are ample; values are slightly weaker.

British Columbian and Oregon pine: No arrivals; the deliveries continue on a more satisfactory scale, but the stock is still heavy; values are firmer. Sequoia (California redwood): Stock is quite sufficient for the limited demand; sales have only been in retail quantities. Kauri pine: The demand is quiet and stocks are ample. The pitch pine market is firm at unchanged values.

A MEMORABLE EXCURSION.

Halifax Merchants Visit Their Customers.

The attention and a good deal of the time of the leading business men of Halifax having been diverted during the past week to the excursion of the Board of Trade of that city that event naturally forms the principal item of news. And, as it is a comparatively new idea in that part of Canada, and comprised a rapid review of conditions on the south shore of this rich Province, perhaps a description of the trip may form, says our correspondent, this week's letter to the "Monetary Times."

This idea of trade excursions was first suggested here by W. J. Clayton, of Clayton & Sons. As put briefly by him, "the object of these excursions is to afford the business men of Halifax an opportunity of becoming better acquainted with the merchants of the districts visited." The matter was brought up before the board some weeks ago, and although some opposition was shown the general sentiment was in favor of the proposal. The first excursion was booked for May 8th, 9th, and 10th, along the towns of the south shore, the itinerary including Hubbards, Chester, Chester Basin, Mahone, Lunenburg, Bridgewater, Liverpool, New Germany, Caledonia, and Springfield. About seventy members of the board went on this trade pilgrimage by a special train supplied by the Halifax and South-Western, and everything possible was done by the railway officials, from Superintendent Sullivan down, to promote the comfort of the passengers and the success of the excursion generally. The stops made varied according to the size and importance of the place visited, a good deal of time being devoted to Lunenburg, Bridgewater and Liverpool as the more important places. At each point the local Board of Trade had prepared a reception, and everywhere the greatest interest was manifested in the idea, so that the excursion was like a triumphal procession all along the line.

Usually the first thing done was to call on all the business people at their own places of business for a few words of greeting. Then the programme of sight-seeing and visiting of local industries arranged by the local board was followed out, and afterwards a public meeting held, at which views and impressions were interchanged: the local boards telling what they were endeavoring to accomplish locally and the Halifax delegates speaking on the work of the board in Halifax. In this way both sides were given a pretty accurate idea of conditions prevailing.

The tourist trade was much discussed, as was natural in a part of the country where the attractions to tourists are probably unsurpassed in this part of Canada. The whole country along the south shore opened up by this Halifax and South-Western Railway cannot fail to become one of the

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