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A Liberal Minister favours Preferential Trade with Great Brit in Honble. G. W. Ross, the Ontario Minister of Education. Mr. Ross is a Liberal of Liberals, hence the significance of his speech. He declared his conviction to be in favor of such preferential trade relations being established between Great Britain and Canada as would involve the granting Canadian goods some degree of preferential treatment in British markets. Mr. Ross considers, "the temper of the British people is such as to render it highly probable there will be a movement made to grant Canada preferential treatment." He deprecates haste in making a reciprocity treaty with the States, and condemns any conditions being proposed "involving the sacrifice of any vested right or any consideration whatsoever as to the use of our waterways, our railroads, or our fisheries should be put in the scale as a counterpoise to any privilege afforded us in the markets of the United States. A commercial treaty that cannot be made on a commercial basis, pure and simple, should not be made at all. On this point," said the Hon. Mr. Ross, "there should be neither parleying nor pandering." The preferential trade question, as we intimated last week, is evidently making headway, when it elicits the enthusiastic support of so prominent a Liberal Minister as the Hon. G. W. Ross.

Government Officials as Directors The leading English journals condemn the Premier and President of the Executive Council of British Columbia, for allowing their names to appear as Directors of a joint stock company which has been organized to operate in the Klondyke district. The *London Times*, referring to the prospectus of the Dawson City & Dominion Trading Company, remarks:—"We regret to observe the names of the Prime Minister and the President of the Executive Council of British Columbia on the company's advisory board. Men in their position are establishing a bad precedent when they allow their names to be connected with undertakings of this class, however sound they may be." The *London Money Market Review* says:—"The associa-

tion of Ministers in office with joint stock companies is not immaterial, but open to grave censure." The *Statist* considers that the gentlemen in question have "belittled" their office. It is to be regretted that the company sought to be assisted by the Premier of British Columbia joining the directorate met with such sharp criticism in the London papers that it has discredited other enterprises for developing the Klondyke gold fields.

Ontario's Death Rate. Although the Province of Ontario is only part of the Dominion, its population, 2,263,402, is not far short of one half of the whole, and its climatic conditions are fairly representative of those of Canada. The occupations of the Ontario people are also representative. There are no circumstances connected with the health of Ontario of more favorably exceptional character than those found in the rest of the Dominion. Such being the case, it is reasonable to take Ontario as typical of the Dominion in the matter of vital statistics. The Report of Dr. Bryce, Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health for that Province, gives its death rate as 10.9 per 1,000 compared to that of England, which is 18.7 per 1,000. In the last ten years there has been a marked decrease in deaths from typhoid, largely due to the introduction of water works in 100 towns and villages. The deaths from consumption are stated to amount to "double those from scarlet fever, small-pox, measles, whooping cough, diphtheria and typhoid combined." This, we submit, is to be accounted for by the great success which has been achieved by medical science, and by sanitation, in reducing the deaths from such diseases as the above, while consumption still baffles the efforts made to reduce its baneful effects. The statement in the Report of Dr. Bryce that consumption has more victims in Ontario than the aggregate of the six other diseases above named is likely to be misleading, as an illustration will show. Suppose there was only one death each from scarlet fever, typhoid and other four diseases in Ontario, the total would be six; then, if those from consumption were