

CANADA'S COMMERCIAL AGENTS.

CANADA spends a few thousand dollars in maintaining commercial agents abroad. These men have offices in foreign lands, and supply information to buyers or sellers to or from Canada. The number of these agencies should be increased, and the amount spent on them likewise increased. This would be a much better means of advertising Canada than printing a million of pamphlets which do not reach the people who want them. In Paris there is an attractive agency, and one which is becoming to Canada's measure of greatness. But in no other country in continental Europe is there any agency with quarters of a decent size. The trouble with this matter, as with many other commercial matters with which the Government deals, is that lawyers deal with matters of which they know nothing and on which they are too thoughtless to ask business men's advice. Business men, on the other hand, are too backward in offering advice which might result in a great deal of good.

This question of Canada's commercial agents came up recently in Parliament for discussion. The Toronto Globe's report is as follows: "Upon the vote of \$10,000 for commercial agencies, including expenses in connection with negotiations of treaties, or in the extension of commercial relations, Mr. Mills, of Bothwell, asked the Premier whether there had been any attempt made to secure recognition of the agents of Canada by Great Britain. The agents of Canada abroad would have no official character unless there was some recognition on the part of the foreign office secured. Sir John Thompson replied that Canada's agents had no official consular character. They went

abroad as agents would of a private house, except that in this instance they presented a great country, and were treated with respect accordingly, and were given facilities everywhere by those who represented her Majesty in the consular capacity. The Government was corresponding with the British Government with a view of getting recognition of the Canadian commercial agents, especially the commercial agents at capitals of the great countries. Mr. Charlton urged the importance of sending a commercial representative to Washington."

It would seem from present indications that Mr. Charlton is right, and that a commercial agent at Washington would do much to counteract the unnecessary advice which Mr. Charlton, Mr. Wiman, and others, sometimes give the United States Government.

CANADA'S GREAT FAIR FOR 1894.

The Toronto Industrial Exhibition has now become one of the great events of the year in Canadian history, and is looked forward to by the people in all parts of the Dominion. We have received a copy of the prize list for this year's fair, which is to be held from the 3rd to the 15th September next. The amount of prizes offered is as large as ever, and there is every prospect of this year's show excelling all others, as there is no other great fair to conflict with it, and the directors have voted a large amount for novelties and special features which are bound to attract the people. The grounds are also being vastly improved this year. Any one desiring a copy of the prize list can obtain one by dropping a post card to H. J. Hill, manager, Toronto.

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