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Topics of the Day

FEARFULLY and wonderfully made are the descriptions of Canada now appearing in British newspapers and periodicals. There is a story told in Toronto about a journalist who came all the way from London to see Cobalt. With a party, he started off on schedule to go through the district. The day spent in the town of Cobalt itself was dark and drizzly but the welcome was bright and warm. Consequently that newspaper correspondent saw absolutely nothing of Cobalt and its wonderful mines except one or two small rooms where liquid refreshments were lavishly supplied. Presumably he had gone back to London to praise or condemn the Cobalt mines.

A writer in the "British Empire Review" has this to say of Calgary: "The style of building is quite picturesque, but there are as yet no trees, no flowers, no gardens, no fences around. A background generally of old tins, paper, old heaps of wood, fragments from the building stage, and rubbish generally." However, he liked the fresh invigorating air, and thinks that when the citizens have had time to sweep up a bit Calgary will be a "nicer place of residence."

In spite of some of the peculiarities of these visitor-writers, they have written passages about Canada which must do a great deal towards keeping the Britisher's eye turned this way. True, this country is not so tidy as England where policemen patrol even the country roads. It is still a great big raw undeveloped section of the world, with towns and cities in a most elementary stage. It will take a hundred years to clear up the rubbish and polish the face of the landscape. Perhaps the example of the C.P.R. and G.T.R. in planting flower-beds at the larger railway stations may be followed by the various city and town authorities. A little tidying up and a little decoration would be beneficial to the people of the newer districts themselves, as well as pleasing to the hurrying line of visitors which is annually increasing in number and importance.

It is a splendid sign of the times that the British newspapers and periodicals are willing to publish all the available material about Canada. No less than four parties of journalists have crossed the Atlantic this year to see with their own eyes the glories of this newer portion of the King's Dominion. The man in the home-land who has not heard or read of Canada must be a recluse.

And alongside this ever-increasing journalistic interest, there is working the new "Dominions Department" of the Colonial office. Under Mr. Lucas, with the assistance of Mr. Just, this department will now deal directly with all matters relating to the self-governing Dominions beyond the seas. It will be the medium for communications sent from Canada to the British government relating to all matters which are usually

dealt with at Colonial and Imperial conferences. It will be a clearing-house for colonial opinions and information.

Mr. Lucas and Mr. Just have been selected for these positions because of their knowledge of Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. They are well-informed and sympathetic and should perform exceptional service. If there were more colonials in the civil service of Great Britain, it would be an advantage. Perhaps some of the Rhodes scholarship men will drift that way, seeing that scholarship and not political "pull" is the entrance test.

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These remarks upon Great Britain's interest in Canada lead up to a consideration of the extent to which we are absolutely dependent on that country. If Great Britain were to withdraw her confidence in us for twelve months, the expansion of the country would cease. Mr. Hays found the money for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway in London; Mr. Mackenzie goes there annually to float the bonds of the Canadian Northern Railway; Mr. Nicholls has just returned with two millions for the Canadian General Electric, and a

hundred others are doing the same each year. The municipalities and provincial governments are almost entirely dependent upon the London market.

Our dependence on London was never greater than it is today. The United States money market is in bad condition; the Canadian banks have double-locks on their reserve vaults; our assets are mortgaged and margined to the limit. Considering the higher dividends and the increased volume of business, stocks are lower in price than they have been for several years. To

Great Britain alone we may turn for relief. She has never failed us in the past; she is not likely to fail us in the present. She took our bonds when the prospects of the country were rather dim and doubtful. She is not likely to refuse them now that our possibilities seem ten times as great as in the seventies and eighties.

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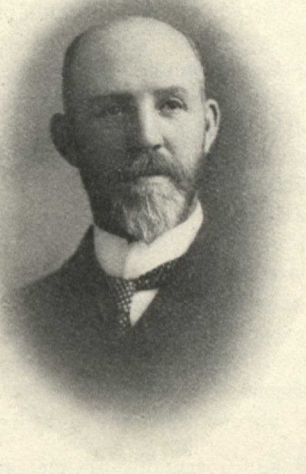
There is another lesson here. Canada is short of capital and one reason for it is Mr. Fielding's allowing South and Central American companies to be incorporated at Ottawa. This was foolish and undesirable. It led to the drawing of Canadian capital to Cuba, British Guiana, Venezuela and Mexico. In fact it was "down-right insanity" on the part of the Canadian authorities. To give governmental sanction to those trying to draw Canadian investments was a crime against the country.

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Professor Shortt has succeeded in dealing a body-blow at the Courier's theory that wages have risen to an extremely high point and are likely to recede. He has secured an advance of about fifteen per cent. for the telegraph operators employed by the Canadian Pacific Railway.



Mr. A. E. Donovan, M.P.P.,
Brockville's new member.



Professor Adam Shortt,
Wages Adjuster.