

**Another  
Canadian  
Honoured.**

Captain Arthur E. Hodgins, R.E., son of Thos. Hodgins, Q.C., Toronto, has been appointed chief construction officer of the Imperial Military Railway, South Africa, under Lt.-Col. Girouard, director-general of the military railway system in the four British Colonies in that part of the world.

Captain Hodgins will have a large body of Royal Engineers under him, and from 7,000 to 8,000 natives. This is another feather in Canada's cap, which is getting as full of gay plumes as the head-dress of an Indian chief.

**Building Goods  
for  
South Africa.**

Shipments of building materials to South Africa are certain to be exceedingly large as soon as the war is over, as the wreckage of houses, barns, railway stations, &c., has been enormous. These will have to be rebuilt from imported goods, of which trade Canada could secure a good share by working for it. Canadian mills can turn out building lumber, doors, window sashes, and all the timber fixings required in the recently disturbed districts cheaper than any other country. There will also be a very extensive demand for furniture in Natal, the Orange River, and Transvaal colonies, where the contents of hundreds of homesteads have been burnt or smashed. The new furniture company may send goods to meet this demand as a new development of the export trade of Canada.

**A Broker's  
Dilemma.**

Lord Hardwicke, who is Under Secretary of State for India, in the Imperial Government, is also a member of a firm in London, whose business is that of stock-brokers, operating on the London Exchange. A great outcry has arisen against Lord Hardwicke for holding so eminent an official position while directly connected with stock exchange affairs. It is pointed out that as an official he is behind the scenes where he receives intelligence of political and other movements some time ahead of the public, or even of the best informed members of 'Change. Thus, he is in a position to make highly profitable use of his official information, either by advising clients, or dealing personally in securities liable to be affected by such movements. His Lordship is in a grave dilemma, to give up his brokers' business would be a serious monetary sacrifice, and to resign as Under Secretary for India would be a grievous blow to his political career. That an English nobleman should be a member of the London Stock Exchange is a sign of the times; it is an exhibit of the utter break-up of the old-time prejudice which kept the aristocracy outside the sphere of commerce. The depreciated incomes of the English nobility, owing to their

lands falling so heavily in rental value, which is a result of free imports of wheat and other agricultural products, have compelled many titled persons in the old land to pocket their class pride in order to have an income from trade. It is not a case of noblesse oblige, but, poverty necessitates. But, it seems hardly fair for a nobleman to enjoy a distinguished political office in the government, which he would certainly not have were he without a title, and at the same time be actively engaged in a business occupation which, until recently, his class were wont to regard as beneath their dignity. Noblemen on the Stock Exchange ought certainly to have no special privileges arising from their social rank, or, their occupancy of a political office.

**A South African  
Mines  
Question.**

The charge was made by the enemies of the Empire that the war was inspired by Great Britain's lust for gold contained in the Transvaal mines. The absolute falsity of this has been overwhelmingly demonstrated. Still, there was a connection between the Transvaal gold mines and the war. From these mines were drawn the millions of money by which the armaments used by the Boers in the war were purchased. The mines provided Dr. Leyds with an immense bribery fund, which has borne fruit in the support given to the Kruger cause by newspapers in England, and on the continent of Europe and America. They also provided money to pay foreign officers as instructors of the Boers, and as generals in the field. So, it is quite true, there would have been no war with the Boers had there been no Transvaal gold mines. Or, rather, the Boers would not have invaded a British Colony as the initiatory step of a movement to drive Great Britain out of South Africa had they not had possessed enormous stocks of gold. The underground rights of the Transvaal mines were valued by Mr. Kruger's experts at \$220,000,000. As a basis for taxation to meet the war expenditures, the mines are justly relied upon to yield heavy revenues. But for these expenditures, the mines would have been made almost valueless as private properties. The Transvaal Government would have taxed the output up to the point of practical confiscation.

That this was Mr. Kruger's intention has been revealed by the enquiry going on at Pretoria, where documentary and sworn evidence was presented by the Dutch Vice-president of a great enterprise, that Mr. Kruger had received bribes to the extent of over one hundred thousand pounds sterling, to induce him to deal fairly with the mine owners. John Bull wants no bribes, but he has a righteous claim to compensation for preserving the African gold fields from the rapacity of the Kruger party.