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The Export Trade with Great Britain.

Canada's export trade to Great Britain has shown a gratifying increase during the past summer. The Montreal "Witness" notes that out of eighteen staple lines of products exported from Montreal, only five showed decreases as compared with 1897 and for these decreases there were special reasons, while some of the increases were notable. Thus in round numbers the export of corn from Montreal increased ten million bushels, oats nearly two million bushels, butter nearly eighty thousand packages, eggs fifteen thousand cases, flour more than two hundred and seventy thousand barrels, and flax in the neighborhood of seven hundred thousand bushels. In barley, rye, meal, apples, pork, lard, hams, bacon and meats, increases were shown. In the exports of wheat, cattle, sheep, horses and cheese there is more or less decrease as compared with the previous year. In the item of wheat the decrease is very large, amounting to more than 900,000 bushels. This falling off is accounted for partly by the fact that top prices were reached in 1897 during the Leiter "corner" and partly by the fact that the unexpectedly low prices prevailing so far the present year have induced producers to hold their wheat with the hope of a rise. The decrease in the cattle exports, it is held is only apparent and not real, since large shipments of Canadian cattle have been made this year by way of New York and Boston because of the lower rates, ruling at those ports as compared with Montreal. In this connection it may be remarked that the fact that Upper Canadian cattle and Nova Scotia apples are being sent past Canadian ports to Boston or New York in order to secure advantageous rates is certainly a noteworthy fact, the cause whereof should be made the subject of prompt investigation. Probably not many persons have thought of Iceland as a successful competitor with Canadian farm products in the British market, yet it is said that it is Iceland that is accountable for the decline in the export of Canadian sheep, and that in the face of Icelandic competition mutton for the British market cannot be profitably produced in Canada. As a whole, however, the export trade of Canada with the old country appears to be in a prosperous condition, and may be regarded as an indication that the products of this country are being received with growing favor in the motherland.

President McKinley's Message.

President McKinley's annual message, delivered at the opening of Congress on December 5th, has been of course one of the prominent topics of discussion during the past week. Naturally the message is occupied largely with matters pertaining to the late war with Spain. The President recalls the events which led up to the war and justifies the forcible interference of the United States in the affairs of Spain as in the interests of humanity also upon the right to protect the life and property of United States citizens in Cuba, to check injury to United States commercial and industrial interests through the devastation of the island and to remove the burdens upon the United States Government and the constant menace to peace involved in the uncertainties and perils of the Cuban situation. Of the prompt response of the country in men and money for the purpose of carrying on the war and the conduct of officers and men in all departments of the service, the President speaks in tones of highest praise, but without singling out any for special honor. In the achievement of victory for which neither ancient nor modern history affords a parallel in the completeness of the event and marvellous disproportion of casualties, the total loss in killed and wounded on the part of the United States was 1668 men. The policy to be developed in the government of the territory acquired as the result of the war, the President does not discuss. This can best be done after the treaty of peace, now in process of negotia-

tion, shall have been ratified, and in the meantime the military governments which will be continued over those lands will give the people security as to life and property and encouragement to enterprise. What Mr. McKinley says about Cuba seems plainly to indicate the opinion that the ultimate aim of the United States should be not to annex the island but assist its people to independence and self government. "It should be our duty," he says, "to assist in every proper way to build up the waste places of the island, encourage the industry of the people and assist them to form a government which shall be free and independent, thus realizing the best aspirations of the Cuban people." The President states that the relations of his Government with Great Britain have continued on the most friendly footing. He praises the tact and zeal with which the British diplomatic and consular representatives (acting at the request of the United States) fulfilled the delicate and arduous task of securing protection for Americans and their interests in Spanish jurisdiction during the war, and makes special mention of "Mr. Ramsden, Her Majesty's Consul at Santiago de Cuba, whose untimely death after distinguished service and untiring effort during the siege of the city was sincerely lamented." In reference to the joint High Commission, now sitting in Washington, the President says: "It will give me especial satisfaction if I shall be authorized to communicate to you a favorable conclusion of the pending negotiations with Great Britain with respect to the Dominion of Canada. It is the earnest wish of this Government to remove all sources of discord and irritation in our relations with the neighboring Dominion. The trade between the two countries is constantly increasing and it is important to both countries that all reasonable facilities should be granted for its development."

Among other matters of interest dealt with in the President's message, may be mentioned the Paris exposition of 1900, in which it is expected the United States will participate on a scale commensurate with its productions and industries. To this end the appropriation by Congress of \$1,000,000 is advised. The Nicaragua Canal project obtains mention and it is promised that the report of the Walker Commission on that subject, which has now nearly completed its labors, will be laid before Congress. There is allusion to the extraordinary events transpiring in the Chinese Empire whereby portions of its maritime provinces are passing under control of European Powers, and it is intimated that these events are being attentively watched by the United States Government, with a view to protecting the nation's commercial interests in that quarter of the world. Allusion is also made to the causes for disquietude on account of the unrest in China and the revival of the old sentiment of prejudice and opposition toward alien people which pervades certain parts of the country. It is the intention of the United States Government to employ vigorous measures to secure the American interests and to require reparation in case of injury done to the lives or property of American citizens. The Czar of Russia has been informed of the cordial sympathy of President McKinley's Government in his proposal for disarmament, which is regarded as a step toward the establishment of peace and good will among the nations. The representative of the United States to Turkey has been instructed to secure a settlement with that Government, so far as possible, of long existing controversies and especially to press for indemnity for the property of American missionaries destroyed in connection with the Armenian troubles. The President alludes in terms of high praise to Miss Clara Barton and all who aided her in the philanthropic work of the Red Cross Society during the war. The United States Government cordially agreed to the proposition coming from the Swiss Government to extend the Red Cross system to naval hostilities.

The Dreyfus Case. The Dreyfus case continues to be a great source of excitement in France. The civil authorities seem to be determined now that the case shall be thoroughly sifted and that the guilt or innocence of the prisoner of Devil's Island shall be if possible clearly established. The conviction that Dreyfus is innocent of the crime charged against him and that he is the victim of a cruel conspiracy has probably grown more general. The most probable explanation is that there really were revelations of military

secrets, that one officer or more of the French army was concerned in it, and that by means of forged documents the crime was fastened upon Dreyfus. The recent suicide of Colonel Henry in prison, after he had been apprehended on charge of being concerned with the forging of certain documents in connection with the case, will be recalled. It is now intimated by a Paris paper that the evidence which has come before the Court of Cassation goes to show that this Colonel Henry, and not Dreyfus, was the traitor who sold documents containing military secrets to a foreign power, and that Esterhazy was an accomplice with him in the infamous business. The fact that Henry was living far beyond his salary attracted attention, and investigations into the source of his income revealed, it is said, a part of the truth, confirming the stories as to the relations between him and Esterhazy and showing that, through the latter as a mediator, Henry received money from abroad. When there was danger of the facts becoming known, Henry and Esterhazy concocted the forgeries by which the crime was falsely fastened upon Dreyfus. This may be nothing more than a shrewd guess at the facts, but in the light of Colonel Henry's suicide, it seems to be not wholly improbable.

Sir Edmund Monson and Anglo-French Relations.

It does not appear that the relations between Great Britain and France are growing more amicable. The latter seems determined to adhere to a line of policy which, by its disingenuousness and pettiness of motive, has caused so much irritation in England. Of this the proposal to start colleges as a rival to General Kitchener's projected institution in the Sudan is an instance. As an indication of the character of the present relations between the two nations, a speech of Sir Edmund J. Monson, British Ambassador to France, seems significant. The speech was delivered at the Silver Jubilee banquet of the British Chamber of Commerce in Paris, on the evening of Dec. 6th. Sir Edmund having expressed his appreciation of the more direct methods of diplomacy which were coming into fashion—largely through American influence—and having referred in terms of warm praise to the character and utterances of the men who in recent years had represented the United States at the Court of St. James, regretted that he did not possess their command of appropriate language, but intimated nevertheless his intention to depart on that occasion from traditional limits while endeavoring to say a few words which might work toward the end for which a British Ambassador is sent abroad. After referring to the recent remarkable outburst of public feeling in Great Britain over the Fashoda incident and expressing the hope that the idea of Great Britain being unduly squeezable and prone to make graceful but impolitic concessions is thoroughly exploded, Sir Edmund went on to speak eulogistically of the Paris Exposition of 1900 which he described as "one of the most significant factors in restraining the combative elements now menacing the peace of the earth." He appealed to France to disabuse herself of all suspicion of unfair intention upon the part of Great Britain; to try to believe there was no general animosity in England toward France, and to meet England on every question at issue with an honest desire for an equitable arrangement. The most significant part of the Ambassador's speech was its concluding sentences which are reported as follows: "I would earnestly ask officials in power and unofficial exponents of public opinion to discountenance and abstain from a continuance of the policy of pin pricks, which, while it can only procure an ephemeral satisfaction to a short-lived ministry, must inevitably perpetuate across the Channel an intolerable irritation. I would entreat them to resist the temptation to thwart British enterprise by petty manoeuvres, such as the proposal to start colleges as rivals of General Kitchener's projected institution in the reconquered Sudan. Such ill-considered provocation might have the effect of converting Great Britain's present policy of forbearance in Egypt into the adoption of measures at which I presume French sentiment is not aiming." Such a speech may well be considered as a "departure" in the methods of British diplomacy and it naturally caused something of a sensation in London. Most of the papers of the Metropolis are said to regard it as an unfortunate indiscretion, the "Times" standing almost alone in approving Sir Edmund Monson's utterances.