

Canada's Foreign Trade and the Share British Columbia Should Get

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TWO important features of Canada's trade in the period prior to the war stood out as warnings for the future—first, that we were importing much more than we were exporting, and second, we were only getting about two per cent. of North America's export trade. The other ninety-eight per cent. was going to the United States.

It did not speak well for Canada that the United States was and is sending more manufactured and other products to all foreign countries than is Canada. Should there be any excuse for the unfortunate truth that the United States sends more exports to Newfoundland than does Canada, when all these exports must pass through Canada?

The people of the United States have always been organizing for the fostering of foreign trade. They have their South American Union, their Russo-American Chamber of Commerce, their Domestic and Foreign Trade Bureau, and numerous other bureaus for the fostering of foreign trade. Canada has had no such organizations. The only place in Canada that information could be had regarding Canada's exporting manufactures as a whole was from the Department of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa, and the information given there was very limited.

It was the need of getting more foreign trade for Canada, both now and after the war, that originated the idea of the establishment of the International Chamber of Commerce.

It is a new organization, but it portends great possibilities.

But the purpose of this article is to point out some of the Canadian foreign trade which British Columbia ought to get. We are boasting of a probable closer alliance in trade between the British colonies after the war, and what province in Canada has more possibility of trade with New Zealand and Australia than has British Columbia?

Our aggregate trade with Australia in 1916 amounted to \$7,773,000, while the United States aggregate trade in the same year with Australia amounted to approximately \$70,000,000. Canadian exports to Australia in one year amount to a little over \$6,000,000 in normal times, while United States exports to Australia in one year amount to about \$40,000,000.

Let us look at New Zealand. Our aggregate trade with New Zealand in one year is around \$6,600,000, while the United States aggregate trade with New Zealand in one year is around \$12,000,000. Canadian exports to New Zealand in a year amount to approximately \$3,000,000, while United States exports to New Zealand amount to approximately \$8,000,000.

Take British India as another example. So aloof have we stood from our sister colony, British India, that we have not even attempted to cultivate our trade with her. While we in Canada have been standing idle, the United States has been capturing