

But in the last couple of weeks, since the 1910 crop comes into comparison with the full movement of 1909, a great falling off is seen.

A report comes from London that a well-known Canadian merger promoter has been working on a \$7,000,000 lumber and pulp proposition. It has been supposed that London had had enough of our merger securities for the time being. At any rate the market for those particular securities here in Canada appears to be somewhat congested and it seems that a slacking off in the output would be in the Dominion's best interests.

CANADA AND MEXICO.

The celebration of the centenary of Mexican independence calls attention forcibly to the position and prospects of the most southerly of the three nations occupying the North American continent. From many points of view, Mexico is an intensely interesting country. To the artist it gives luxuriant scenery and tropical colour, to the archaeologist a wealth of ancient and historic remains, to the student of affairs, the curious, if not unique phenomenon, of a republic *de jure* that is an autocracy *de facto*, and to the man of action a field for development and production that is probably second only to Canada. The development of Mexico, as in the case of other Latin-American republics further south, has been considerably retarded by political turmoil, and the autocratic methods of President Diaz have found their justification in their consequence of producing order out of chaos, and of placing the country in the category of fast developing nations. "After Diaz, the deluge" has become something of a shibboleth with some pessimistic observers of Mexican affairs, and it would, of course, be foolish to ignore entirely the evidences which appear of dissatisfaction with the present *régime*. At the same time, there is no disguising the fact that Diaz has built solidly, and, while it may be expected that his passing will be followed by a certain amount of unsettlement in the country, that would appear too gloomy a view which suggests a reversion to the old conditions of chronic revolution.

Canadian enterprise and skill and Canadian capital have already done much for the development of Mexico, particularly in the utilization of water-power and in the opening-up of systems of transportation, while Canadian banks and insurance companies, also, are represented in the southern Republic. But it may well be considered whether we are utilizing as we should do the great advantages, which our geographical position gives us for the opening-up of trade relations with the country. In view of our geographical location,

and of the work which has been accomplished in Mexico by Canadian brains and capital the figures of the existing trade between the two countries, while they show a large increase during recent years, cannot be considered as altogether satisfactory. For the Mexican fiscal year ending June 30—we quote these figures from Mexican returns—imports of Canadian goods and produce into Mexico were in 1908 of the value of \$821,745 Mexican currency or 0.37 per cent. of the total imports of the country; in 1909, \$1,436,429, Mexican currency or 0.92 per cent. and in 1910, \$2,296,755 Mexican currency or 1.18 per cent. of the total imports. In the same three years, Mexican exports to Canada were \$187,012, Mexican currency or 0.08 per cent. of the country's export trade; in 1909, \$528,175, Mexican currency or 0.23 per cent. and in 1910, \$1,036,361, Mexican currency or 0.40 per cent.

These figures, it is true, show large and consistent growth. The increase in the value of both imports and exports last year over 1909 is particularly satisfactory, while it may be noted that in 1909 both Mexican imports and exports as a whole showed considerable decrease. But, at the same time, it may well be asked if these figures represent all the trade that could be done at the present time with Mexico were the southern market more closely cultivated by Canadian commercial interests. Is 1.18 per cent. of Mexico's imports and 0.40 per cent. of Mexico's exports or 1.58 per cent. of the whole of Mexico's foreign trade a fair proportion to be in our hands, in view of our geographical position? It may, of course, be replied that, since Canada herself is only on the fringe of development, there will be a natural growth as both countries expand. That is to be expected, but, at the moment, we are concerned with present day conditions. There may be technical trade reasons, which preclude a greater volume of trade between the two countries, but looking at the question broadly it appears that the present position is unsatisfactory and that definite efforts should be made to enlarge the trade between Canada and Mexico.

The complaint is generally heard that Great Britain has such a relatively small hold of Mexican trade because of the failure of British traders to send a sufficient number of competent representatives to the Republic, with the consequence that United States firms have found the field an even more easy one to work than it would otherwise have been. This refers, of course, mainly to manufactured goods. In the case of Canadian trade with Mexico, there would appear to be a considerable opportunity for expansion in natural products. The two countries are complementary