

This year, in response to an appeal from British Columbia, whose lumber interests were somewhat disorganized and confused, I asked the British Columbia people to pick out for me the man who they thought would be best suited for the work of traveling over the world in the interest primarily of Canadian lumber, with reference particularly to the western coast. They gave me their man, a university graduate, a very clever young man who had had training in forestry work in British Columbia. He is now making a tour of the world, commencing with the United Kingdom, and visiting France, Belgium—such part of it as is left—Russia, South Africa, India, China, Australia, New Zealand, and the South American continent. He is on the latter part of his travels, and his reports, full of information and of suggestions, have been published in the Weekly Bulletin; and, when they have been finished, they will be collated in a pamphlet or volume by themselves. Not only has he been looking into the matter of lumber conditions and possibilities, but he has also had an eye to general trade conditions, and his reports have embraced that side of the question as well as the lumber side. In Great Britain I appointed a general trade commissioner, with a special knowledge of fruit questions, who works in collaboration with the agricultural department, and who is engaged in gathering information and sending us reports in reference thereto.

At the present time I am contemplating the sending of a special trade commission to the United Kingdom, to France and to Italy. These will be different from our trade commissioners. I am trying to select four or five business men of Canada—men of capacity, of practical experience, to a certain extent of expert knowledge in the different lines of industry to which they are or have been attached—who will form an honorary commission. Their expenses will be paid, a secretary will be provided for them, experts in different large lines of industry will accompany them; and their duty will be to go to those three countries and look specially for new openings which are possible owing to the changed conditions brought about by the war, openings which would have been impossible two years ago, but which now, temporarily in certain cases, and permanently, I believe, in many cases, will be open to the industries and products of the Dominion of Canada. These men will make a thorough inquiry,

they will have the best opportunity for doing so, and they will prepare an exhaustive report on those fresh points of view which have come into existence within the last few months, owing to the problems and the conditions imposed by the war. That, I think, will be very important for this country, and the result will be very beneficial to the future expansion of our trade.

Then I have been for the last two years looking thoroughly into another branch of work in connection with the Department of Trade and Commerce, which, I think, is no less important, and which in the future will be of very great interest and benefit to us. I think the time has come in Canada when we should establish a bureau of commercial information, which shall stand in Canada as the clearing house for commercial and business information with reference to foreign countries and to our own country as well. I have looked into these commercial museums and bureaus of information in different countries. Perhaps the one I have in mind will be formed on a plan different somewhat from those that exist in Japan and in other countries, particularly in the United States, where the conditions are much on a parity with ours. I think I can better express my aim by reading the ideal placed before us in the establishment of a bureau of industrial information, and which when complete will:

1. Answer all enquiries for information respecting commerce and industry, home and foreign—a clearing house for commercial intelligence.
2. Exhibit samples of home manufactures in actual and photographic form, and statistics thereof.
3. Exhibit samples of goods in vogue for consumption in foreign countries of such kinds as might be made in Canada, and statistics related thereto.
4. Exhibit samples of imported goods of such kinds as might be made in Canada, with statistical information relating thereto.
5. Exhibit samples of natural resources, serving as material for manufactures, in Canada and in the Empire, with statistics relating thereto.
6. Exhibit the processes of manufactures and industries in Canada.
7. Exhibit, in diagram, the resources, production, and trade of Canada; our lines of transport, internal and external.
8. Co-ordinate the scientific and engineering forces and factors of Canada along the line of research and technical re-