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EDITORIAL.

An Opportunity for Canada.

However heavy Japan's losses in commercial lines and in increase of national debt have been because of the war—and, remarkable as is Japan's power of endurance, such loss cannot but be considerable—there is no doubt whatever that, when the war ceases, the development of her trade with the world will be of phenomenal rapidity. Already her prestige has been firmly established, and those nations which were before disposed to discriminate, are now inclined to sue. Of this we have an example in our own country.

In 1894 Japan concluded commercial treaties with Great Britain, Germany, Austria-Hungary and France, each of which contained a "most favored nation" clause, entitling these countries to tariff preference. Canada was given two years to decide whether she would be a party to the British treaty or not, and the time was afterwards extended a year. Her decision was to refuse. In the first place she was afraid that her commercial dealings might be hampered by such a treaty; in the second, at a time when Japanese and Chinese were alike dumped in one class as "undesirable," she wished to be free, if she chose, to restrict Japanese immigration.

As a not unnatural consequence, Canada's refusal did not pass unnoticed by the Japanese. Canadian goods met with speedy disfavor, and although their price was in some cases reduced 5 per cent to meet a 5 per cent. preferential tariff, granted by Japan to the United States, competition with American goods was found to be well-nigh impossible, and Canada lost opportunities of a considerable trade in such things as condensed milk, leather, horses, cottons, woollens, paper, rubber goods, enamelled ware, and wire of all kinds.

This year the question came up in the Canadian Parliament, and by that time Canada had learned to know that Japan was no longer a country to be discriminated against—Japan, no longer the obscure half circle of the Mikado crouched against and overshadowed by greater Asia, but Japan rising crescent-like from the far western Pacific, brilliant, progressive, the leader of constellations of trade, progress and prosperity of an awakening Orient. Accordingly there was little surprise and some satisfaction when, a few weeks later, on June 22nd, the announcement was made in the House on the Hill that discrimination against Japan was a thing of the past, and that in consequence the Japanese had given assurance of their willingness to admit Canadian products to the advantage of her minimum customs duties. In this arrangement Canada merely enters as a party to the British commercial treaty, which has still six years to run.

That similar discrimination against the Chinese will have to be abandoned is not within the realm of the impossible. China is awakening to the value of her resources, and her recent boycott of American goods shows that she will no longer turn the left cheek when the right is smitten. Once alive to the possibilities within her, it is not incomprehensible that she will make haste to develop them. Such rapid development as Japan has made is, of course, scarcely to be expected of China. Within the past ten or fifteen years Japan's foreign trade has increased in value by 230 per cent., her bank deposits by 360 per cent., savings 200 per cent., investments in various enterprises 220 per cent., railway mileage 80 per cent., and shipping 240

per cent.; and when the war is over and her fleet of transports can be turned to a carrying trade these figures will, doubtless, be advanced more rapidly still. But the fact remains that, even with a comparatively slow development, there is an enormous trade to be built up with China.

With Japan and China directly across the ocean from British Columbia, it would appear that Canada should be destined to no inconsiderable share in this harvest of Oriental commerce, and, should no unfortunate national complications ensue, an increased prosperity for the Dominion would seem to be more by way of prospect than dream. China is just beginning to take kindly to wheat bread, and in this field alone there should be scope for a tremendous exportation once the fashion becomes a broadcast one. Japan, on the other hand, has already established regular steamship services to London, Bombay, Australia, Seattle, San Francisco, Hong Kong and many Chinese ports. Has the Dominion of Canada no attractions which might also win from her the beating a regular track across the sea?

The Gambling Dives.

The summer-fair season in Alberta has closed with the most disgraceful gambling episode that has ever occurred in our Western towns. Wheels of fortune—or, more properly speaking, wheels of misfortune—loaded dice, and every gambling device that the inventive mind of man can devise, ran wide open on our fair grounds, while the police could not or would not see the infringement of the law, while officials in high places winked and kept silent, and while the exhibition managers profited from the ill-gotten gains of the gambling thieves.

Now we have an emphatic protest from an outraged public and an effort made to fix the blame where it belongs. To us there appears no ground for dispute. With those who sell the privileges for the exhibition must rest the responsibility. In their hands lies the power to regulate this matter; on their heads must rest the measure of the public censure.

The statement freely made in our papers that the privileges were sold on the distinct understanding that the purchaser must look out for the police is disgraceful. Truly, the sight of an exhibition official pandering to a man whose business will, if the law is carried out, land him in jail, is a sight to make the angels weep and bring the blush of shame to every right-thinking man. Surely we can have in our police force men of backbone; in our municipal officers we must have men who look to the enforcement of the law, and for us to tolerate in our exhibition officials men who allow such gross misconduct as took place at some of our fairs, is simply taking the broad road to the ruin of our exhibitions.

To the plea for honesty and fairness we meet the old cry, "Where will the money come from?" We can only answer that the protest of the people shows where the necessary support can be had. We venture the assertion, that in every town in which these dives have been permitted, an appeal to the people would bring a ready response. Local patriotism is not dead; the heart of the people beats true; they want to see the shows a success, but they are unanimous on one point—that success shall not be bought by the toleration of vices that rob the people of their money, inculcate in the minds of our youth wrong ideas and ideals of life, and bring into our midst a band of men whose proper abiding spot is that place prepared for violators of our Canadian laws.

Prospects for Central Cool-curing Stations.

In the Dairy Department of this issue will be found some notes from the Dominion Cool-curing Station for Cheese, at Woodstock, Ont., established three years ago, along with three others, situated respectively, at Brockville, Ont., and Cowansville and St. Hyacinthe, Que., to demonstrate the advantages of cool-curing and of paraffin-waxing cheese. Six factories deliver here daily or tri-weekly their make of cheese, the cheese being hauled to the central curing station after remaining a day in the factory, so as to ensure their being dry on reaching the curing room.

So far as cool-curing is concerned, the results have proven so satisfactory that the curing-rooms of many surrounding factories are being remodelled after this pattern. Paraffining has also turned out well, and when the Old Country prejudice against the innovation has been overcome we see no reason why a slightly higher price may not be paid for waxed cheese, which are not only superior in quality, but shrink less in the dealers' hands.

As demonstration stations, therefore, these curing-rooms have done all that was expected of them, but at the time they were established it was thought that they might pave the way for the general inauguration of central curing stations to which groups of factories would haul their cheese. Consequently, we took pains to enquire from Mr. Burgess, the superintendent in charge, what probability there was of the six factories that have been supplying the Woodstock station buying the plant when sold next fall, as we are informed it is to be, and operating it on their own account. There seems to be little likelihood of this being done, although the plant is specially fitted for the purpose, is situated along a switch at the C. P. R. depot, permitting loading directly onto the cars, and ought to be procurable from the Government at a reasonable figure. Instead, the factories, or some of them at least, intend fitting up individual curing-rooms, thus saving the expense of delivering once a day or every other day, which necessitates the carriage of small loads. It is just possible, also, that the factory patrons might not be impressed with the economy of keeping three men employed through the summer to cure the output of six factories, and naturally, too, the maker likes to have the stock under his own charge when the buyer comes around to inspect. The conclusion, therefore, is that, while cool-curing of cheese is bound to increase in favor, the central curing station is not likely to commend itself to patrons or makers, but that factorymen everywhere whose curing-rooms are not now in an up-to-date condition will, or should, take steps to make them so at the earliest possible opportunity.

Name and Post-office Addresses Omitted.

Several letters intended for publication and questions to be answered, have recently reached us without the full name and post-office addresses of the writers. Our published rules require that these must in every case accompany all communications. If for some good reason the writers do not wish their name published, a request to that effect will be granted, but no attention can be paid to anonymous communications. All concerned will kindly bear this in mind for the future, and if any have inadvertently omitted the name and address they may yet be sent in, stating what your letter was about.