

The action of the Hon. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance, in abrogating the German Surtax, has been generally approved throughout both Canada and Germany. The two countries in trade should be complementary one to the other, and this has only been prevented by extreme artificial barriers, the most formidable of which have now been removed by the disappearance of the Canadian Surtax against Germany, and the considerable reduction in many particulars of the maximum German tariff duties against Canadian products.

Into the particulars of the unfortunate trade dispute between the two countries it is not now necessary to enter. Happily, there is every reason to conclude that the attitude of both countries now will be to discover means to increase trade to mutual advantage. Both countries have suffered in many ways from the restrictions of the past seven years, and both may look forward to profit in ample measure by the trade amenities now happily arranged.

Many have little conception of the remarkable expansion of Germany in recent years. The population is increasing at the rate of a million a year. Since 1896, when the Laurier Government was returned to power, the population has advanced from 52,753,000 to 63,017,000 in 1908, an increase of 20 per cent. The details of this striking and continuous increase of population cannot fail to be interesting and impressive :

Years	1896	1897	1898	1899
Pop.	52,753,000	53,569,000	54,406,000	55,248,000
Years	1900	1901	1902	1903
Pop.	56,046,000	56,874,000	57,767,000	58,629,000
Years	1904	1905	1906	1907
Pop.	59,475,000	60,314,000	61,177,000	62,097,000
Years	1908			
Pop.	63,017,000			

The agricultural products of Germany are limited and every year she finds it necessary to import more and more from abroad wherewith to support her teeming industrial population. Such a situation cannot fail to appeal to us in Canada, especially to our great and growing agricultural population, and our large fishing and other interests. With the increase in population Germany's imports are increasing enormously. The following figures are convincing :—

For.....	1901	1902
The amount was....	\$1,430,000,000	\$1,450,000,000
For.....	1903	1904
The amount was....	\$1,580,000,000	\$1,713,000,000
For.....	1905	1906
The amount was....	\$1,860,000,000	\$2,005,000,000
For.....	1907	1908
The amount was....	\$2,186,000,000	\$1,916,000,000

and they continue to expand. This means an increase of more than 50 percent in 8 years.

A glance at the following list will give the reader an idea of the enormous imports into Germany of products in which we are most interested.