

BETTER RELATIONS WITH CANADA.

Speaking of a recent resolution passed by the Seattle Chamber of Commerce to appoint a select committee on Canadian affairs, with a view to the cultivation of more cordial relations with ourselves, the Post-Intelligencer of that city makes the following remarks: "It is scarcely a new departure in its objects; for it simply seeks to restore in a measure conditions which once prevailed. In the earlier days of the province and the territory, when both were in large measure isolated from the outside world, the relations which prevailed between the people resident in the towns of Puget Sound and those of British Columbia were intimate and cordial to a degree scarcely ever before seen between people living under different political governments, and separated only by an imaginary boundary line. Victoria was then the principal place of the North-West, was the largest and most prosperous city; and for several years was the terminus of the only line of ships plying to California. This close intimacy and mutual friendship was dissociated from business matters, because the tariff laws operated to prevent any interchange of commodities between the two countries to an even greater extent than is the case to-day. But this fact did not operate in the slightest degree to impair the cordiality with which social relations were maintained. In the past few years, the two communities have drifted apart. There is little of the old-time cordiality between the province of Canada and the State of Washington that flourished when British Columbia was a separate colony and Washington was in the swaddling clothes of a territorial government. The Chamber of Commerce, by its recent action, hopes to revive something of the old intimacy and kindly feeling, and it is to be sincerely hoped that the movement will be successful."

RUSSIA'S MERCANTILE MARINE.

According to the London Standard's Odessa correspondent, a ministerial report just published states that the Russian mercantile marine consisted, on January 1st, 1901, of 745 steamers and 2,293 sailing vessels. Last year thirty-eight steamers of 35,193 registered tons, were added to the mercantile fleets of the Baltic and Black seas, while the increase in the Caspian and White seas was but trifling. Of the total steam tonnage, 59 per cent. is owned by share companies, 21.9 per cent. by private individuals. The largest steamship firms are those working on the Black sea. The Russian Steam Navigation & Trading Co., of Odessa, possesses a fleet of seventy-two steamers, representing a total of 67,654 registered tons; the Russian East Asiatic Co. has three steamers aggregating 12,618 tons; the Russian Baltic Co., five steamers of 7,896 tons; the Archangel-Murman Co., thirteen steamers of 6,233 tons; the Orient Transport Co., twenty-five steamers of 13,702 tons; and the Kavkaz & Merkuri Co., on the Caspian, twenty steamers representing 11,984 tons. Those are the chief Russian maritime concerns, exclusive of the volunteer fleet of fourteen steamers of 45,209 tons.

AMERICAN HOSPITAL SHIP "MAINE."

There has just been placed in the Incorporated Accountants' Society's library a volume which will be of permanent interest, and a copy of which has recently been presented to the King. It contains the report and accounts of the committee

of the American Hospital Ship "Maine." The volume is profusely illustrated, and deals with the two voyages of the Hospital Ship to South Africa, and the subsequent voyage to China. Separate income and expenditure are given for each voyage, and the final account embracing the whole, shows a total income of \$207,985, and an expenditure of \$206,505, leaving a balance of \$1,480 to be given to a charity. In addition, it should be borne in mind that the ship itself was lent by the Atlantic Transport Company, through Mr. Baker, the chairman, and thus, as the committee point out, entirely at the cost of Americans, has this vessel been sent on her errands of mercy. The whole of the accounts have been compiled by Messrs. Martin, Farlow & Co., incorporated accountants, who acted throughout in an honorary capacity.—"Incorporated Accountants' Journal," England, December, 1901.

WOOL IN THE UNITED STATES.

Justice, Bateman & Co., Philadelphia, in their report, dated January 2nd, say:

The firm closing of the London auction sales has had a favorable effect upon the general situation in the United States; and although there has been no marked advance in prices the tone of the market seems to be against buyers. Only 3,000 bales (less than two per cent. of the entire amount of the sales), were bought for the United States. The smallness of this quantity shows unmistakably that the bulk of the wool in the United States is cheaper than Australian, with the duty added; but it must not be forgotten that American manufacturers are getting some wool from the Argentine Republic at less than anything which could be purchased in London. Judging from this evident increase in wool consumption abroad, and also from recent reports of improvement in general industrial conditions in France and Germany, it would seem that the foreign situation has reacted from its period of greatest depression, and that a higher level of wool values may be established there. The most unfavorable feature of the situation however, is the fact that it has been arranged to offer 900,000 bales for sale in London during the next five months, and it remains to be seen whether the demand will be sufficient to absorb this large quantity without concessions in price. One important factor to be considered is that the stock in London today is almost entirely crossbred wool, the large supply of which would naturally operate against higher prices on these grades, while on the other hand, there has been almost a complete exhaustion of merino wools, notwithstanding that the stock on hand at the commencement of 1901 was chiefly of merino blood.

HOW MANY?

How many business failures and bankruptcies have been averted by life insurance money?

How many families of young children have been kept together by it?

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How many have been saved from pauperism and crime by its benign influence?

How great a burden the State has been relieved of by it?—"New York Life Bulletin."

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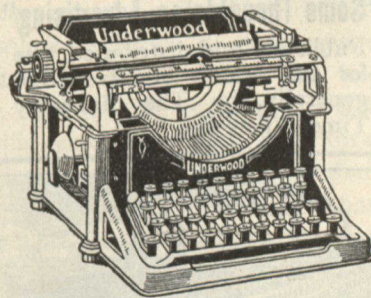
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