

system. Obviously, a tariff policy thus defined can not object to the most liberal trade agreement with Canada. The argument against low wages does not apply to her. Production uses as much labor there as here and the wage scales are practically identical. Therefore, any economic objection to reciprocity is a service not to protection, but to monopoly.

Social Fusion a Factor.

"As strong a factor is the social fusion already accomplished. Interchange of population, interflow of travel and investment, identity of general interest, have developed a relation independent of diplomatic or legislative authority. If a census of opinion could be taken to-day, reciprocity would have a majority on both sides of the line.

"Some of the people of Canada fear the competition of our manufactures. One of the busiest of these is the turning of our timber supply into lumber, and the tariff protects it. But Canada sent to us in 1910 sawed lumber to the value of \$19,000,000. What is the Canadian manufacturer afraid of? The United States imported from Canada last year over \$3,700,000 worth of bituminous coal, and exported to Canada \$17,000,000 worth of the same article. This is but one example of the interchange of commodities between neighbors for their common convenience that goes on everywhere and will continue in spite of all restraints, because it is to the common advantage. Is it not time that we both began to pull with the stream instead of against it; that we gave to this movement of commerce, created and sustained by permanent natural forces, assistance instead of discouragement?

"Whenever capital finds it more advantageous to manufacture in one country than another there it locates its plant. The Monetary Times of Toronto says that of all foreign investments made in Canada during the five years ending in 1909, \$605,000,000 are British, \$279,000,000 American and all others combined amount to less than \$78,000,000. But of England's total, \$481,000,000, on the same authority, were Canadian public flotations in London. Deducting this, the amount of private investment in Canada by Great Britain is less than half that by the United States.

On a Different Footing.

"Reciprocity with Canada stands on a different footing from reciprocity with any other country. We are similar in natural circumstances, in national traits, in all the deeper qualities that distinguish race from race and individual from individual. We have practically the same area, including Alaska. We share the richest heritage in the world, the fertile interior plateau of the American continent. We use together the splendid waterway of the Great Lakes that taps it. The wheat receipts of Minneapolis for the last crop year were eight-one million bushels, and those of Winnipeg eighty-eight millions. Our commerce is inextricably intermingled. The cars of every Canadian system are to be found in the railroad yards of any big city in the United States, and vice versa. About one-fourth of the tonnage using the Welland Canal is from or to the United States ports.

Would Dismantle Every Custom House.

"There never was a situation so favorable to agreement as the present. The advocates of reciprocity can count in both countries upon an audience freer from political or economic prepossession than ever before. The political platform of the party which represents the protective principle in this country, the doctrine announced by President Taft and accepted by republican leaders to-day, if literally acted on, would dismantle to-morrow every custom house along the international boundary. If we are to levy only such imports as will equalize cost of production here and elsewhere—and that is now the universal slogan—then there would be free trade between the United States and Canada immediately.

"It is absurd to suppose that a system of free interchange beneficial to both parties on east and west lines would become destructive if applied by the same parties on north and south lines. It is idle to say that free trade is beneficial between Washington and California and between Pennsylvania and Alabama, while the same conditions between New York and Ontario would bring down ruin on their hands.

Question of Annexation.

"One bogey that has hindered agreement between the two countries in the past ought to be laid forever. This is the connection established in the minds of some between trade reciprocity and possible annexation. There is no more relation between the two propositions than there is from a farmer and promising to buy butter. The truth, neither people is interested in speculations about political change. Each has its own habits of thought and action, its own tradition, its worthy ambition, its problems, its day."

This address is commented upon in the editorial columns. —Editor, Monetary Times.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.

President Hibbard Gives Interesting Decision—The Prudential Trust Company.

Monetary Times Office,
Montreal, December 14th.

The main point of discussion in Montreal financial circles is the position of the public utilities companies in relation to the Public Utilities Commission which was created at the last session of the Quebec Legislature. Mr. Gribble laid a complaint before the commission some weeks ago to the effect that the Montreal Light, Heat & Power Company charged an excessive price for gas and electricity for lighting and heating. He claimed that only one price should be charged for gas, whether for lighting or heating, and that there should be but one meter, also that the discount of 46 per cent. on electric light bills operated as a usurious interest in certain cases. When the matter came before the commission for hearing, the Power Company, instead of replying to the charge, put in the objection that it was beyond the jurisdiction of the commission to proceed with the inquiry upon a complaint of this character. The argument was that no disagreement between Mr. Gribble and the company had been shown, and that the Act did not give the commission jurisdiction save in cases of contestation.

Commission Has Power to Deal With Complaint.

Last Saturday, President Hibbard, K.C., of the commission, at a session of the board, gave his decision that the commission had power to deal with the complaint as registered by Mr. Gribble. The Power Company now has the privilege of appealing to the Court of King's Bench over this decision, providing a judge of the court can be found to assent. It has fifteen days to pursue what course it chooses, and thereafter it has a week or so to file its answer to the complaint in case it does not intend to appeal.

Upon the strength of Col. Hibbard's decision the market for Power weakened several points, dropping to 130, having been strong immediately before.

The Prudential Trust Company.

The Prudential Trust Company has recently taken an office of St. Francois Xavier Street, and is now opening up for business. Although the company has close association with several of the banks, and some of its directors are also on the boards of banks, it is independent of outside control. Its object is to cater to a general business, and preserve itself from any outside influence.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jeffery H. Burland has been appointed president, and his association with the British American Bank Note Company and various financial and commercial concerns has gained for him a strong business connection.

Mr. Brown Appointed Vice-President.

Mr. B. Hal Brown, the vice-president and general manager of the Prudential Trust, has for the past twenty years been known to the readers of The Monetary Times in his capacity as general manager of the London and Lancashire Life. During his service with the London & Lancashire, his faculties for obtaining and investing money to advantage were constantly being exercised, and in this connection he also gained very large experience regarding trust funds, which will be of much use to him in his new career. Mr. Brown has been called in by the Canadian Pacific Railway, Grand Trunk Railway, and other large corporations in Canada as an adviser in the formation of pension funds. Upon several occasions his knowledge in connection with municipal securities has been called upon by different towns and cities in Canada. In financial circles it is generally admitted that the Prudential Trust Company was fortunate in its choice of its leading officers.

COBALT ORE SHIPMENTS.

The following are the Cobalt ore shipments, in pounds, for the week ended December 9th: Drummond, 401,260; Nipissing, 317,510; Crown Reserve, 124,600; Temiskaming, 125,760; Coniagas, 60,400; O'Brien, 76,400; McKinley-Daragh, 55,340; Townsite, 78,000; Trethewey, 44,200; Right of Way, 60,130; La Rose, 85,310; Standard Company, 83,900; total, 1,512,750 pounds, or 756 tons. The total shipments since January 1st are now 63,702,071 pounds or 31,851 tons. In 1904 the camp produced 158 tons, valued at \$316,217; in 1905, 2,144 tons, valued at \$1,437,196; in 1906, 5,129 tons, valued at \$3,900,000; in 1907, 14,040 tons; in 1908, 25,700 tons; in 1909, 29,751 tons.

A Vancouver company is negotiating for a street railway franchise in Brandon, Man.