

so. Mr. Reid's stay will be but a fitting through. His intention is to be at Niagara Falls on the morning of the 2nd of August, and in Toronto in the evening. He will leave next day to catch the steamer at Vancouver on the 8th. This rush is necessitated by the meeting of the adjourned conference in September. Mr. Kingston may be there earlier and longer. The Canadian Government and people will, no doubt, see that the little time at their disposal will be well and comfortably spent. Both are strong men in these colonies. Mr. Kingston belongs to the fighting class of politicians, who rides down his opponents like a charge of cavalry, while Mr. Reid delights in strategy, and would rather outflank his adversaries than ride them down. Both have carried two general elections, a unique thing in these colonies, when, until lately, the average life of a Government had been about eighteen months. The relative permanence of Administrations in Canada no Australian understands. He comes to the conclusion that the extreme cold has congealed the people into political torpidity.

Sir Frederick Sargood, the head of some of the largest businesses in Australia, leaves for Vancouver on the "Aorangi," on Monday. He expects to be in Canada by June the 8th, and then visit Ottawa and Montreal. His visit is one of pleasure.

This steamer "Aorangi" (Maori for morning dawn), justifies the descriptions printed of her. She is a fine sea boat, speedy, steady and strong. Her second cabin accommodation is equal to the first in many ships, and her first has roomy cabins and a cool and handsome saloon. She starts with fifty more passengers on her list than has been previously carried by any vessel of the line. It is to be hoped this traffic will grow. She has booked full return cargoes from Canada for this voyage, and, I understand, all the steamers have for some months to come.

This steamship carries a bunch of mining men for British Columbia. They have been in Africa and Western Australia. They left the former because of the uncertainty of the political situation in the Transvaal, and they leave Western Australia because it is too costly to mine there just now. Some of them represent English capitalists.

Good rains have fallen along the coast line of this Province, helping the dairying interest a little, but it is very dry in the interior. Cattle, sheep and horses are dying, and farmers cannot plough for the wheat that ought to be sown. Unless the weather breaks shortly, Australia will need to import wheat and flour for a third year. Canadians should hold themselves ready to take a larger share of this trade. It is making business in other lines dull.

W. B.

Sydney, N.S.W., 10th May, 1897.

TRADE WITH JAPAN.

The Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce has taken steps, as we have stated, to make Canada better known in certain distant countries by sending trade commissioners to them. These commercial agencies are intended for the service of importing and exporting Canadian merchants, as well as to assist the manufacturers of the Dominion. Mr. Anderson, the commissioner to Japan, has issued a circular describing his mission, which is to learn by personal investigation to what extent and in what manner an increase in trade between the Dominion of Canada and Japan may be brought about. He asks from manufacturers and others interested in the export trade of Canada special information regarding the products they are prepared to offer that country. He would like to be furnished confidentially with a minute description of the goods, manner of putting up, form, sizes, etc., etc. (photographs where possible), and also the lowest export prices.

"The time has arrived when Canadian manufacturers require to reach out for wider fields, and do their fair share in supplying the world's market with Canadian products." And Mr. Anderson adds: "Such goods, the products or manufactures of Japan, as you may wish to import, the original cost of which you would like to find out, I shall be glad to report upon. It will be my special mission to say what the probabilities and possibilities are for the extension of trade between the two countries."

Canadians have more than once been assured by visiting Japanese merchants or other functionaries that there is much more trade to be done with Japan by Canada than exists at present. We know already that they will buy, and do buy, our flour, butter and cheese, but there are other products we might sell them, and there are, we believe, Japanese products which may have increased sale here.

—The ground floor of the building at the north-east corner of Yonge and Queen streets, Toronto, is being handsomely fitted up as a branch of the Bank of Montreal. It is to be ready for occupancy on the 2nd of July next, and will be in charge of Mr. George S. Crawford, who is well known in Toronto, and has been many years on the staff of the bank.

ONE OF NEW BRUNSWICK'S GRAND OLD MEN.

An interesting sketch of the varied and extensive business of the Lumber King of New Brunswick, Alexander Gibson, is given in the *St. John Telegraph* last week. It is published in connection with the announcement that the large properties of this well-known gentleman have recently passed into the hands of a company, by which they will hereafter be operated. This transfer is one which has made no change in the management of the property or in its ownership. Mr. Gibson is the president and manager of the company which takes over the properties, and his two sons, Alexander and James, and his son-in-law, Mr. Charles H. Hatt, are the directors. He will still exercise a general supervision over the affairs of the vast estate, but many details will be spared him. And surely it was time that he should be relieved, for Mr. Gibson is seventy-eight years of age and entitled to relief. Besides this, he doubtless felt that he was making a proper arrangement for the succession to and the continuance of his large enterprises in putting them into company shape.

What is said at the conclusion of the article referred to is probably true, namely, that very few people have an adequate notion of the extent of Mr. Gibson's business enterprises. His original business was lumbering, and he is still the greatest lumberman in New Brunswick. By the recent purchase of the Blackville property, he has extended lumber operations to the Miramichi, and begun the development of a new business in that region. His lumbering operations, it is stated, employs not less than 1,000 men working in the woods, as axemen or teamsters, while, during the sawing season, his mills at Marysville and Blackville employ 400 more. There were last week seven large ocean steamships at St. John loading deals for him. But Mr. Gibson was not content with being merely the greatest lumberman in the province, he became the greatest cotton manufacturer. His cotton mill at Marysville is a very large one, and employs 700 hands. Mr. Gibson has done some railway building. He took the principal part in the construction of the New Brunswick Railway to Edmundston, on the east side of the St. John River, and he built the Canada Eastern Railway from Fredericton to Chatham, which last line he owns. Canadians in the West, as well as in the East, welcome the enterprise, while they admire the energy of such men as Alexander Gibson. We hope he may live for a score of years yet.

ONTARIO CHEESE MARKETS

The predictions made early in the season that an enormous production of cheese would take place in Canada in 1897 are going to be realized, if the present rate of increase in the make of the different factories continues. We have received reports of 17 board meetings, at which 30 794 boxes were offered, as compared with 28,254 boxes offered at 15 meetings last week. Complete statistics are not available of the cheese boarded by the same factories in the same week a year ago, but the increase is considered to be very large. At the Brockville board 4,332 boxes of cheese were boarded on June 10th, and at a corresponding date last year 2,439 boxes were boarded. Resolutions have been passed by several boards condemning the cheese branding bill now before the Dominion Parliament. A movement is on foot to secure a union of the cheese interests of Prince Edward, Hastings, Peterborough and Lennox counties in adopting a common brand. Notwithstanding the large offerings of cheese, prices have been well maintained and the average price paid is a fraction higher than last week. Quotations range from 8 to 8½ cents, with 8½ cents a common sale price. Our correspondents advise us of the sale of 15,839 boxes of cheese on board; as the views of the salesmen were strong, about half the entire offering was held over, large sales having been made in several instances immediately after the board meeting. The following table contains the details of the transactions at the Ontario Cheese Board meetings for the week ending June 16th:—

Boards.	Date of meeting.	No. of factories.	Cheese boarded. Boxes.	Cheese sold. Boxes.	Price. Cts.	Date next meeting.
	June.					
Kingston	10	..	1,813	1,813	8½-8½	.....
Brockville.....	10	..	4,332	1,854	..	.....
Barrie	10	..	1,005	1,005	8	July 1
Listowel	10	22	4,500	.....	8½	.....
Chesterville.....	21	..	1,200	419	8½	.....
Shelburne	11	..	1,850	1,850	8½-8½	June 25
Perth	11	..	1,400	1,400	8½	.....
Iroquois	11	..	922	922	8½	.....
London	12	18	1,842	748	8½-8½	.....
Belleville	15	25	1,840	1,640	8½-8½	June 22
Ingersoll	15	..	1,969	.....	.....	.....
Madoc	15	14	950	680	8½-8½	.....
Campbellford	15	..	1,050	780	8½	June 22
Napanee	16	..	1,430	1,275	8½	.....
Stirling	16	..	420	420	8½-8½	June 23
Pictou	16	16	1,245	600	8½-8½	.....
Woodstock	16	18	3 026	433	8	.....