

NORTH OF ENGLAND LETTER.

The consummate tact of our Imperial ruler has come to aid at the critical moment. The command to Windsor of the C.M.A. delegates was the first of a series of smashing blows to the imputation that Englishmen looked on the tour as a piece of espionage. And now 270 Canadians have the best cause to feel that Edward VII. is not only to be revered as a monarch, but sincerely to be admired and respected as a man. The impetus of a royal send-off is carrying the visitors handsomely into and through all social circles, and if no tangible business results, that will be because the delegates are spending, in seeing the sights, their golden hours of English June. It is hoped that an enduring impression upon our leading financiers will be made, and that some of our surplus funds for investment may be diverted into Canadian channels. There seems to be no good reason why sound industrial enterprises in the Dominion should not attract support from here. If the visit of the delegation fails in this effect, it will rest with Toronto to inveigle a party of Stock Exchange men into spending a month in Canada. It may be argued plausibly that this is the logical corollary to the commercial visits exchanged, and, granted that the right men were selected, Canadian industry must soon feel the benefit of their coming.

Do Canadians in their foreign trade schemes take account sufficiently of India? Last year the exports from the United Kingdom added up to the highly respectable total of \$375,000,000. Because India is technically a Possession and not a Colony there is an absurd tendency to disparage tacitly its immense importance. As a mere market it is of more consequence to our traders than Canada, Australia and the Cape combined. And if Canadians are anxious to dispose of foods, cotton goods, railway material, cutlery, portable machinery, spirits, oils, paints, glassware, and a thousand cheap oddments, they ought to keep Bombay and Calcutta well in mind. The commercial organization of Manchester and London is peculiarly adapted to the transaction of Indian affairs, and for those who prefer not to trade directly there are merchants in plenty in Great Britain who know their India like a book. There is competition, of course, from this country, from Belgium, Germany, Austria, and also the States, but perhaps Canadians do not need to run away from that. It may not be out of place to add a note of caution against a too easy acceptance of offers from irresponsible native houses. The business can be done with people of unchallengeable worth.

Two State departments run newspapers, the Board of Trade has its weekly journal and the Board of Agriculture its monthly. Then there is daily the London Gazette containing names of bankrupts and official notices. Now, the London municipality considers the proposal of founding its own journal, to which those wanting appointments or contracts might be led to look. In the ultimate its promoters dare to think that they will be able to dispense with all other forms of advertising. Thus, we may live to see the municipal newspaper competing for advertisement business with private newspaper owners. The Board of Trade Journal unwarrantably does so, presuming on its official connections to secure a degree of confidence it could hardly inspire on its independent merits.

Many trades are now feeling the pinch of competition by trading municipalities. Plumbers, electricians, milk-dealers, chemists, bankers, and insurance agents have, perhaps most cause to grumble. Parcels express companies are the latest to the list of victims. The communal tramway departments are taking upon themselves all the duties of expressmen. In one Yorkshire city it is literally possible to send a parcel to Toronto, Honolulu, or whatever place you choose to name, by simply handing over the package to the conductor of the nearest car. The corporation is agent for an international carrying firm.

Shippers of provisions are necessarily interested in the veracity of analysts' certificates. Questions as to the purity of butter and cheese perpetually arise, and are referred to the chemist for examination. A recent case suggests that

analysts are by no means infallible. A borough analyst certified a sample to contain 20 per cent. of foreign fat, and a Government analyst declined to vouch for the presence of more than 12 per cent. That discrepancy is more than a little. But when a third, independent, analyst comes up with the asseveration that the butter is perfectly pure, the limits of credulity are reached. An equally sure method of examination would be to show the sample to a cow for her approval or condemnation. Yet all three are duly trained and theoretically competent and able men, and the word of any one of them is enough to pass or damn a consignment.

One of the troubles of the Canadian cotton industry is reported to be labor scarcity. We have hardly cause to make that complaint in Lancashire, although cause may come if all the eggs now incubating hatch out. There are completed, in erection, or in project, forty-eight new spinning mills, that should employ 10,000 additional workers, and will certainly cost \$25,000,000. Then there are weaving developments needing 5,000 extra operatives. These great additions cannot be eyed with uncompromising favor. Certain branches of the industry are equipped already to the full, and it is not certain that all the mills can enjoy continued prosperity in unison. Dissatisfaction is tempered by the reflection that machinery is constantly being built, and must be erected somewhere. Perhaps it is better that the risk of its employment should be taken in Great Britain rather than upon the Continent or in the States. In one or another part of the world, Canadian cotton manufacturers will presumably have to reckon with the new batteries of cotton-spinning artillery.

Some quaint superstitions in England are linked with Canada. For instance, there has arisen mysteriously a wild report that hens die of drinking melted Canadian snow. A caller at the Emigration Offices in London desired to have his mind set at rest on that important point before deciding to go out in search of a farm. A lady, born in Quebec and resident in England, assured me quite gravely a little while ago that any Canadian returning to his own land after long residence in Great Britain would infallibly die of consumption. To his evident astonishment and relief a prospective emigrant, an English greenhorn, learnt that in the Dominion nearly all families are "Christian." Quite a number of others like him consider it vital to know whether the bacon-box in which his clothes are ought to be nailed down or screwed. In settling such points as these the Government officials are kept quite busy in the emigrant season. But perhaps the exhibition of ignorance is not to be taken as fully typical.

NORTH COUNTRY.

Manchester, June 23rd.

GOOD ROADS.

As each succeeding convention of the Eastern Ontario Good Roads Association makes itself heard, one looks around in an endeavor to see what benefits have followed each preceding function of that useful body. The progress made, it must be confessed, is disappointing, seeing the ultra-important nature of the subject to the well-being of every Canadian citizen, be he a resident of city or suburb or country. At the same time, while progress is slow—slower by far than it should be in an up-to-date, business community—it seems to be none the less sure.

The fourth annual session met in Brockville on the 28th ult., and there was a good attendance, including a sprinkling of representative believers in good roads from across the line. Among the more suggestive of the many admirable addresses delivered was that by Mr. A. W. Campbell, Ontario Good Roads Commissioner, in which he gave in interesting language a brief history of the movement. The amendments made at the last session of the Legislature, whereby no Government aid would be granted except for a county system, was severely criticized, but Mr. Campbell maintained that in order to make any headway trunk lines have to be constructed, and the township improvement is sure to follow.

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