

claims, had the pleasure, on April 28th, of waiting upon the Hon. Ministers of Public Works and the Interior in regard to the matter. Much gratification was expressed at the assurances made by the Ministers on that occasion.

On the 19th of June, the committee, which was authorized by the Council, had the honor of waiting upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues at Ottawa, for the purpose of discussing the transportation problem, as related to this route; they were joined by members of the City Council as well as by members of Parliament. The Committee were greatly pleased at the consideration the proposition received at the hands of the members of the Government, and were promised that the same should receive earnest consideration; various meetings were held throughout the year by other bodies giving their approval. I have reason to believe that we will be assisted in furthering this project by the influence of the Montreal Board of Trade, as intimated in its annual report recently published.

International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia.

On invitation, delegates from this Board were appointed to attend the International Commercial Congress, held at Philadelphia, and the National Export Exposition, which was held at that place at the same time. The report of our representatives shows that they attended the opening of this important Congress and were the guests of the Congress, during their stay in Philadelphia. Delegates were present from all parts of the world. The importance of this Congress and of the Exposition cannot be over-estimated in its value to manufacturers of the United States. There is a permanent exhibition in Philadelphia, known as the Philadelphia Commercial Museum, where are to be found products from all parts of the world; this Board has representation on the Advisory Board of that museum; our merchants and manufacturers can avail themselves of all the privileges of the museum, and it doubtless could be made of great service to them in obtaining information regarding foreign markets. All of this goes to show a persistency of effort which the people of the United States are making in order to increase their export trade.

Technical Education.

On June 6th a general meeting of the Board was held, at which the Hon. Mr. Ross, Minister of Education, was present and delivered an address on this important question. Representatives were present from various parts of the province. The Council authorized a committee to deal with the question; a report having been framed, the same has been published in pamphlet form and may be had on application to the Secretary.

The Empire.

The present situation of affairs in South Africa, together with the resolutions which have been under consideration and passed by this Board recently, expressing views to the Government regarding the question of supplying more troops for service in South Africa or elsewhere, and the invitation received by this Board to send delegates to participate in the deliberations of the fourth Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, which is to be held in London in June next, impresses me with the desirability of referring to these matters at greater length than I would under ordinary conditions.

It would appear that the time had come when we, as a country, must be prepared to face entirely new issues. The discussion of questions pertaining to the welfare of the Empire should, I think, be approached on the broad lines of words uttered once by Lord Rosebery: "That the British Empire is the greatest secular agency for good now known to mankind." Speaking from this country's experience, which is really, in many respects, the experience of all people where British rule prevails, our institutions are of such a character that all classes have enjoyed the greatest liberties, and we have a people amongst whom, while originally of different nationalities and of different creeds, there exist no cause for dissension in our ranks,