

larly on food, while the Government desires to maintain an effective high tariff against foreign countries. Germany is now protectionist, but the Socialists will likely take advantage of their recent gains to upset the fiscal system of the empire.

### The Spread of Trade

CONTINUED successes are meeting the efforts to extend the trade of Canada in new directions. While the home market is always the best and the surest, commercial relations with outside countries are both desirable and necessary, and Canadian commerce is following upon wisely progressive lines in taking advantage of the new opportunities. In fact, what Canada might do in the world's markets is limited only by circumstances.

Trade with South Africa and Australia shows a steady increase; the recent exhibition at Osaka, Japan, at which Canada was admirably represented, has opened up a very likely market in the Orient for our flour and lumber; while England's demand for Canadian products may always be counted on. From another source, however, has recently come an offer, which, for various reasons, it would be to Canada's advantage to give heed to. That offer was from the island of Jamaica, and was expressed so tangibly as by the delegation to Ottawa of the Colonial Secretary of the Island, who came seeking better trade relations and improved means of communication. Canada's trade with the West Indies has of late years taken second or third place, owing in part to the unsettled condition of the islands; but now that political order has been re-established, the trade might very profitably be extended. Jamaica is a fellow-British colony, and what should give an additional incentive to Canada is the fact that unless we develop business relations with the British West Indies the reciprocal benefits will be picked up by the United States, which already has a strong commercial hold upon Cuba and Porto Rico. Jamaica will take breadstuffs, meats, fish, lumber, and various manufactured goods from us, which she is now buying largely in the United States. The reason why she buys the American

goods is largely because the American dealers have catered to the trade, and also because there is a more adequate steamship service to the United States ports.

On the other hand, Canada uses a large amount of West India produce, mostly fruit. The greater portion of this, instead of coming direct, as it should, is imported via the United States. Last year Canada's bill for oranges, lemons and bananas was a million and a quarter dollars, two-thirds of which was for United States fruit, or West India fruit sent through the United States. It is said that Jamaica is fully equal to supplying the whole demand of Canada along these lines, and would in return take a corresponding amount of Canadian produce. Another side to the matter is the imperial advantage which would result from such a commercial interchange. Imperialism may not appeal to the average man of business, but when we can help a sister colony by buying from her the things she has to sell, instead of buying them from foreign sources, and when that sister colony is willing to buy our own products, instead of those of a foreign country, it is a matter of both imperial and commercial advantage. It is worth Canada's while to meet the advances which Jamaica has made. The first step must be in the way of better steamship connection.

### Canadian Bank Mergers

AMALGAMATION is one of the undoubted tendencies of the times. There is no disputing, on general grounds, the old adage that "in union there is strength," and within the past few years there have been many remarkable proofs of it. Banking institutions have caught the spirit of union and are merging their interests, not from lack of individual business, but because they will be stronger together. There has been of late a great increase of banks in Canada, and they are still being organized. Some of those most recently started are meeting with the most conspicuous success, and the period of progress upon which Canada has entered gives favorable opportunity for the expansion of financial institutions. But with the formation of new