

and are valuable as guides in the commercial situation so far as they indicate and are the reflection of a healthy expansion of internal commerce. Every merchant and every manufacturer has already felt the sweeping change for the better now indicated by the trade returns, and the harmony between official statistics and the feeling of the business community shows that the expansion has been even, regular and natural.

There is a splendid opportunity for some enterprising individual to start a fruit canning factory in Toronto. One might think that the centre of the fruit district would be the best location for an industry of this kind. Such, however, is not the case. The shipping centre to which the fruit naturally gravitates is the best place for establishing a canning factory. Fruit can generally be bought cheaper in Toronto than in the district where it is grown. It not unfrequently happens that large consignments have to be shipped from Toronto back to where it was grown, there to be canned by the local factories. On Saturday last, for instance, 500 packages were re-shipped across the lake to a canning factory in the fruit country. A factory located in Toronto could take advantage of the glut that frequently characterizes the market, being thereby enabled to put up fruit cheaper than factories situated in the fruit districts. The city of Toronto is, we believe, superior to any other point in Ontario for the canning industry. Some two or three years ago it was proposed to start a factory in the old Jaques & Hays property, but the project never materialized. We believe there is good money in the business for anyone who will start a factory here. A high-class pickle factory is also needed in Ontario, and no better place can be selected than Toronto for its location. It seems ridiculous that we should import so many pickles from the United States and Great Britain, when we grow as good pickling vegetables as any country in the world. There is surely no patent or trade secret in connection with the putting up of pickles.—Toronto World.

We do not import much wood pulp, nowadays, excepting such as we bring over from Canada. Last May our total imports were 4,144 tons, and all but about 600 tons came from British North America. During the eleven months ended with May, 21,295 tons out of a total of 25,893 tons imported came from the Dominion. We are not so very unfriendly to the Canadian pulp industry, after all, since we spend in Canada more than 80 per cent. of all the money we invest in foreign pulp. The Canadians are wise in side-tracking that matter of an export duty on wood pulp.—The Paper Mill.

The New York Commercial, speaking of the undervaluation of goods entering the United States, says:—

"The total amount of St. Gall goods involved in the present discussion approximates \$6,000,000 per year, of which probably two-thirds is consigned by the St. Gall houses to their agents and branch houses here. If the goods are undervalued 50 or even 30 per cent. it means a loss to the Government of millions in revenue. For instance, if the merchandise is undervalued to the extent of one-third of the above amount, the \$2,000,000 is dutiable at about 60 per cent ad valorem, or a loss in revenue approximately of \$1,200,000 annually. But where some goods are undervalued 138 per cent, one can readily understand how much greater the loss would be if the abuse were not stopped.

Undervaluation is undoubtedly a bad thing, not only for the revenue but also for the honest importer, but the system comes to be absolutely unbearable when goods are undervalued to the extent of 138 per cent. One would naturally conclude that when 100 per cent. had been deducted from the value of an article it ceased to be of use as a means of raising revenue, but to rate it as being worth 38 per cent. less than nothing, indicates that the importation of such goods should be prohibited. But perhaps the Commercial is a little off in its figures.

Speaking of the forthcoming International Conference at Quebec, at which the question of commercial reciprocity between Canada and the United States will be discussed, The Buffalo Courier says:—

"Buffalo, like all of the frontier cities, is interested in several of these questions. The alien labor laws of this country have been a constant source of friction between our people and our Canadian neighbors. The transportation of merchandise in bond vitally affects some of the railways terminating here. The fishing privileges in the great lakes, and the question of maintaining naval vessels on the lakes are matters of local interest. But of far greater importance than any of these to Buffalonians is the formulation of equitable regulations relating to reciprocity of trade. While a few local industries may receive benefits as a result of the high protective wall erected between Canada and the United States by the Dingley law, it does not admit to question that Buffalo as a whole would profit by enlarged trade relations with Canada. Under the new order of things, Buffalo might become both a market town and a trading point for a much larger section of Ontario than heretofore.

No doubt about the benefits that Buffalo, and the United States generally, would receive, but the "trading point" for Canada should undoubtedly be in Canada.

Speaking of the recently discovered corundum deposits of Ontario The Toronto Globe says:—

We are rich in everything necessary to greatness except coal, and fortunately our lack in this respect is largely overcome by the magnificent water powers that will ere long give electric power for the processes of mining and reduction of our minerals. The discovery of corundum deposits gives Ontario another source of wealth scarcely less important than our unrivalled nickel fields. Corundum is the best known abrasive, and owing to its scarcity, emery, a much less satisfactory material, is used for grinding down and polishing metals in most of the world's machine shops. Of late an artificial substitute, carb. run. am, produced from carboniferous material by intense electrical heat, has been extensively introduced, and great works for its manufacture are now in operation at Niagara Falls, but Mr. Blue, Director of Mines, strongly believes that the natural product can more than hold its own in the market. The production of aluminium from the corundum deposits is an industry of huge possibilities, for if aluminium can be produced as cheaply as Mr. Blue evidently anticipates it will very largely displace tin in all industrial processes.

The following letter was written by the Hon. William Mulock, Postmaster-General of Canada, to Mr. C. Freeman Murray, the Secretary of the British Empire League,

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA,  
17 VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.  
July 13, 1898.

DEAR MR. MURRAY,—You will probably have learned from this morning's papers that our Postal Conference has had a most satisfactory termination, and I now avail myself of the