

CANADA AND SIBERIA.

Mr. Wirt Gerrare, who has just returned to England after an extended tour through Siberia, writes entertainingly of some resemblances between that country and Canada, and gives some pertinent suggestions as to how a profitable trade may be worked up. He says:

Canadians probably know little of Siberia, the immense Russian territory, which of all countries is said more closely to resemble Canada in climate, natural configuration and resources; Canadians are not to blame. Few people know much of all Siberia. A country one and a half times larger than the whole of Europe; a country settled since the 17th century; a country with large cities, an enormous trade and over seventy million inhabitants, yet without a British consul, vice-consul, consular agent or commercial representative! This neglect is astonishing. The fault is ours (Great Britain's), and ours only. It must be remedied, and in part, it should be remedied by the appointment of a Canadian to a consular post in eastern Siberia. There are many reasons why consular appointments should be thrown open to British subjects of colonial birth and training. In this particular instance there are additional reasons for the appointment of consular and commercial agencies in eastern Siberia and Manchuria of able men conversant with Canadian commerce. In the first place, the market is nearer to British Columbia than it is to Great Britain—Vladivostok is nearer to Vancouver than to London in the second, Canada produces almost everything Siberia needs, whilst England produces only a small part; in the third, Siberia is being westernized from America rather than from Europe; is being influenced by customs, notions and methods with which we insular English are not wholly familiar. Allusion has already been made to certain natural features possessed by both Canada and Siberia. There the similarity ends. Canadians and Siberians have very few points in common. Siberian tundras correspond to Canadian barren lands; each country has a wheat belt, large tracts of forest, valuable mineral deposits. The best part of Siberia, the richest in natural wealth, is the country that lies beyond Lake Baikal, the territory that is nearest to Canada. It is this region which is, and longest has been, more directly influenced by importations from America; it is the most promising of new markets for Canadian produce. Siberia imports salt, tinned provisions and sugar, as well as manufactured goods and large lumber. Much of the trade has been done by the agents of American firms in the treaty ports of China. England and Greater Britain have now splendid opportunities for increasing trade with Siberia. We want at Vladivostok, Dalni, and other centres, men who know what a new country wants, men who know what Canada and other British colonies can supply. The average English consulate thinks that trade consists of exports of manufactured goods from Great Britain. That class of trade is only a small part of the commerce that should be done with Siberia and Manchuria. Food stuffs, lumber, sawn wood, furniture and building materials—even paving tiles are imported from the United States—and a hundred other classes of goods with which Englishmen cannot be considered familiar are wanted in Siberia. Here is Canada's chance.

MONTREAL MARKETS

Montreal, Jan. 29th, 1902.

Ashes.—Some few small lots have been shipped lately to Britain, and the stock of pots now in store is very limited, only

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 London, Canada—Room 4, Duffield Block, Dundas and Clarence Streets—Geo. H. Smith, Supt.
 Montreal, Canada—1670 St. Catherine's Street—Chas. Stansfield, Supt.
 533 Board of Trade Building, 42 St. Sacrament Street—Henry Briggs, Supt.
 Ottawa, Canada—Metropolitan Life Building, Metcalfe and Queen Streets—Geo. E. C. Thornton, Supt.
 Quebec, Canada—Room 12, People's Building, 125 St. Peter Street—Geo. K. deKappelle, Supt.
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Total business in force, Dec. 31, 1901	\$31,725,479
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