

we have the medium of the Trade Commissioners whom we now have in every important district of the United Kingdom, in the overseas dominions, and in such foreign countries as it has seemed best, up to the present time, to enter. These trade commissioners are, I believe I can say without exaggeration, doing their business on the whole excellently well, and some of them deserve all the praise that can possibly be given them for the energy, the capacity, and the success with which they are carrying on their work. These trade commissioners are diligently engaged, from the first of January to the thirty-first of December in every year, gathering information in the districts to which they are accredited and the areas to which their work applies. They are gathering that information judiciously, and not simply sending in anything which would make a paragraph or a report. They send in weekly and monthly reports, and these reports are carefully edited and published in our bulletin, and in that form sent out weekly to now some 6,000 or 8,000 of selected business men in the different parts of Canada. It has been a source of great gratification to me to receive the kind words and hearty endorsement of business men in every part of Canada, testifying to the interest with which these bulletins are regarded as welcome, helpful and profitable visitors to their offices and their homes. But the trade commissioners are assisted, and the scope of the whole system is widened by the privilege which we have, the right we have at the present time as Canadians, to call upon the commercial intelligence branches of the British consular service in every part of the world. These officials are not only instructed from the Foreign Office, but from the communications I have had, they are willingly and cheerfully throwing themselves into the work, and providing us with such information as they think will be of use, such information as is asked of them by Canadian merchants and by my own department. So, special reports asked for by my department are obtained from all these countries upon special subjects, from the intelligence department of the British consular service. That gives us a much wider scope than if we had simply our own trade commissioners. Then, there are special and traveling commissioners. As the House will probably remember, I appointed a special commissioner to the West India Islands, who spent nearly a year and a half in those islands, went through them thoroughly,

possessed himself of the information which was there to be obtained and which was particularly adapted for the purposes and the needs of Canada, and has lately published a report. I do not know whether all members of this House of Commons have seen it or not, but if any member would like to see it I would be glad to put it in his possession. It is a book upon the West Indies, and it embodies the result of his travels, his observations, and his advice with reference to trade.

Mr. PUGSLEY: What is the name of the commissioner?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Mr. Watson Griffin. Within the last few months I have also had prepared a resume of the distinctive energies of Canada in production, both natural and industrial, a sort of vade mecum for our outside commissioners, people in foreign countries, British consuls and others into whose hands we put it, destined to answer this question: Is there anything that you want to know about Canada? If there is, here is a book in which you will find something in reference to it. If you want more information, you will know where to apply for it, and get it in detail.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Can we get that book?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: That book has just been put through the press, and members of Parliament will have a copy of it placed in their hands. It is not for general distribution in Canada; it is for the purpose of helping and aiding our correspondents and business men in foreign countries who want to know for instance, where asbestos is found, and obtaining similar information in reference to any of the natural or the industrial products of Canada.

During the last year one of our best trade commissioners has spent five or six months in Russia, going through the country from west to east, from Petrograd to Vladivostock, and he has made his observations and gleaned his information from every part of that country. He has embodied that information in reports which have been published in the Bulletin, and those reports have been collected in a small volume. Today Mr. Just is in Petrograd as our chief trade commissioner in Russia, and within a few weeks another trade commissioner from Canada will take up his headquarters at Omsk, in the farther east; and those two gentle-