

## CANADA'S GOLDEN ERA.

## Hon. H. R. Emmerson's Eloquent Speech Before the Canadian Club at Boston.

Popular Minister of Railways Discussed Important Public Questions Before Yankee Audience.

Boston Herald.—Beneath the union jack and the star-spangled banner, President Roosevelt and King Edward were honored Monday night, at the Canadian Club in toasts to which nearly 200 members responded enthusiastically.

The gathering, one of the most successful, and undoubtedly the largest, ever held in the history of the organization, signified its settlement after seven years of prosperous existence, in the commodious quarters at 3 Joy street, recently placed at its disposal by the Twentieth Century Club.

The proceedings in which ladies took part, began with a reception at 6 o'clock. Half an hour later dinner was served in the large banquet hall on the street floor.

The president of the Canadian Club, John F. Masters, occupied the chair, and the guests present included the Hon. H. R. Emmerson, Canadian minister of railways and canals; Editor J. S. Willson of the Toronto News; Henry M. Whitney, president of the Boston Chamber of Commerce; A. W. Woodhouse, British vice-consul; President Charles F. Dole and Secretary Edward H. Chandler of the Twentieth Century Club, and Prof. W. B. Munro, president of the Canadian Club of Harvard University.

The speaking began soon after 8 o'clock.

In an address, packed with figures showing the immense industrial and railroad development of Canada, Minister Emmerson expressed his strong regret that all efforts to bring about a fair basis of reciprocal trade between the two countries have

and Quebec looked upon the land by the sea as being peopled by a few fishermen, an inferior people, cking out at best but an existence, and only knew and traded with his neighbors on the south of the border—the people of the eastern and middle states. All communication of thought and ideas—socially, educationally and otherwise—was over these then widely separated areas. The extreme East and what was then known as the West followed the channels respectively mentioned. I now speak more particularly of days prior to the creation of the Dominion of Canada; but these conditions continued to exist for a long period subsequent to that date, and until by means of railway and other communication the people of the Dominion of Canada began to know each other.

Inhabited area, in national wealth, in population, in fact in all that contributes to a country's importance, the Dominion was but a speck. Her greatness, her wealth, a resource at that period, consisted almost wholly of her inchoate potentialities.

## WINNING GREAT NORTHWEST FROM THE WILDERNESS.

It is of that new Canada of today that I would attempt to speak—a country extending from the Atlantic on the east to the Pacific on the west, and from the Arctic circle to the northern bounds of the United States, and comprising within its area more than half of North America, and about one third of that embraced within the limits of the British empire; a country twice the size of the United States, and larger than Australia; a country almost as large as the combined area of Europe, and larger than the United States; yes, as large as the republic and its dependencies of Hawaii and the Philippine Islands. A country, which encompasses more than half a continent, must naturally present a theme so broad for discussion that the limits of a post-prandial speech would be far exceeded were an attempt made to more than touch the fringe. The Canadian of today, wishing to view his inheritance, would travel about 2500 miles from the Atlantic seaboard to Winnipeg—the metropolitan city of the Canadian middle West—and then he would only be at a city, aptly designated, "The Gateway of an Empire." Proceeding on some 800 miles farther, travelling over a portion of the fertile wheat belt, he would reach another city—Edmonton—also designated a gateway—the gateway of the great north country, a land abounding in wheat-producing areas, and also known as the gateway to the Orient. Canada is a house with many doors, and with expanded areas.

It has been my privilege within the past few weeks to cross the northern ocean, and to observe something of the progress and expansion which is taking place throughout the Dominion. In particular I traversed the great wheat belt of the new provinces in the West, and saw, with satisfaction, the rapid manner in which new areas are being opened for settlement and the profitable industry of the husbandman. For many scores of miles we passed through thickly settled districts, which 10 years ago, were unchanged from the days when the buffalo made the prairie his grazing ground. Into those fertile sections have come many thousands from Europe, and many thousands from your own land. With some care I endeavored to ascertain with what measure of success these settlers had taken up life in our great Northwest and the results of that inquiry were most gratifying.

To afford something like a sound notion of the way in which northwestern Canada is being won from the wilderness, permit me to give you the figures of immigration for the past five years:

|           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| 1901..... | 39,149  |
| 1902..... | 67,379  |
| 1903..... | 128,364 |
| 1904..... | 130,331 |
| 1905..... | 146,266 |

Here we have an ascending scale, and there are good reasons for believing that this will continue. Each successful settler becomes an active and influential propagandist among his friends, who have been left behind, either in the old world or the southern half of the new. The spectacle of 100,000,000 bushels of wheat produced during the past harvest cannot fail to attract those who are desirous of bettering their lot in life. In fact, it is known that the steamship companies have booked passengers up to their full limit for the early spring months. So that it may be safely assumed there will be another large influx of settlers next year.

It was just this life giving stream of land seekers of which Canada stood in need, and to start which our people freely spent large sums of money in years past. The tide is now running strong and full, and in the throes of this incoming life our people see the birth of a new Canada. We are about to duplicate the history of the United States between 1865 and 1880. Sir Wilfrid Laurier recently said that while the 19th century had been the century of the people of the United States, the 20th century was Canada's.

This western development has brought with it a great stimulation

to the industrial life of eastern Canada. The people, who have come to require the products of the east, and as a result, there has been great commercial activity in the older provinces. In fact, the trade of the Dominion has been going ahead by leaps and bounds during the past nine years, and there are good grounds for the bright expectations for the future. Let me give you a short statement of the trade results since 1896:

| EXPORTS AND IMPORTS. |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1896 .....           | \$239,000,000 |
| 1897 .....           | 257,000,000   |
| 1898 .....           | 304,000,000   |
| 1899 .....           | 321,000,000   |
| 1900 .....           | 387,000,000   |
| 1901 .....           | 387,000,000   |
| 1902 .....           | 423,000,000   |
| 1903 .....           | 467,000,000   |
| 1904 .....           | 472,000,000   |
| 1905 .....           | 475,000,000   |

These figures are most gratifying from the Canadian standpoint, and when measured against the relatively slow growth for the period between confederation and 1896, they give point to the view that a new Canada has really sprung into existence. The interest of those who are on the American side of the line in these results lies in the fact that last year, out of a total trade of \$475,000,000, we did \$240,000,000 with the United States.

## REJECTION OF RECIPROCITY NOT CANADA'S FAULT HE SAYS.

This fact suggests the close and sensitive trade relations existing between the two countries, and it is a great pity that all efforts to bring about a fair basis of reciprocal trade have thus far come to naught. Let me say without one moment's hesitation, that the fault is not on our side of the line. When the Liberal party came into power in 1896 it was the avowed policy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to seek better trade relations with the United States. You know the result. Every proposition we have made looking to reasonable reciprocity has been rejected. You blocked the avenues that were intended to lead the freer commerce; you obstructed the way to closer trade union.

Canada is not now in the position in which she was six or eight years ago. She is not looking to the south of her borders. Her eyes are turned eastward, and also to the Orient. Her conquests must now be in those directions. You turned an unsympathetic ear to her overtures. You rejected her good will. But let me say frankly and in all kindness that neither dismay nor despair has been the result. The expansion of trade and the rapid opening up of the northwest has left our people without an incentive to make the sacrifices involved in a treaty of reciprocity. They are doing business up to their capacity. Thus the golden opportunity is thrown away. When it will come again no one can say, and again I wish to emphasize my previous remark that the fault has not been ours.

Turning back for a moment to the development which has taken place in western Canada, it may not be amiss to observe that these new conditions have brought with them problems of a serious character. First among these is the pressing need of better transportation facilities. Up to the present year there was but one railway prepared to carry grain out of the great wheat raising provinces in the west, and with tens of thousands of settlers pouring in, it was apparent that this one line could not meet the demands of the country in the near future.

This contingency was foreseen by the present government in 1903, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier brought before parliament a measure for the immediate construction of a second great transcontinental railway, the Grand Trunk Pacific. Last year and this have been taken up in making the necessary surveys, and it is now certain that the work of construction will be begun in a measure this year and with great vigor early next spring.

## MARVELOUS GROWTH IN THE BANK DEPOSITS.

A few weeks ago I passed over the line of the Canadian Northern for 500 or 600 miles. This railway runs through the very heart of the new territory being opened up and will be one of the best roads on the continent. The gradients and curvatures are most favorable, and the general equipment is first-class.

Along this line, which was being pushed forward at the rate of three miles a day when I passed over it, The most marvelous development has taken place during the past year. Villages and towns are springing up at intervals of every few miles, and abounding prosperity and promise prevail. This railway might properly be regarded as a third transcontinental line.

With this growth in railway development, in population and commerce, have come other forms of material strength. While being busy, we have also been looking ahead to the traditional rainy day. We have saved money. On Nov. 1 last we had on deposit in our chartered banks over \$500,000,000. To this might be added \$60,000,000 in our savings banks. This large sum not only represents something like \$110 for each man, woman and child in the Dominion, but it stands for more than double our public debt. Ten years ago these deposits aggregated but \$186,000,000 so that we have increased our cash resources by \$314,000,000 within a decade. No other nation on earth has done better than this. Within the same period our bank assets have grown from \$325,000,000 to \$811,800,039.

Courage and confidence are quite as important factors in the enterprises of nations as of individuals, and under the new conditions to which I have alluded the people of Canada are reaching out to grasp the opportunities in view. They have set new bounds to the possibilities in trade and general development. The plodding methods of 10 years ago have been succeeded by a spirit of aggressiveness. The whole

country is booming. Our industries are everywhere active, good wages are being paid, and large undertakings are under way in many directions. The Canadian of today looks out over the Dominion with a wider vision, and sees avenues of enterprise open of which he never dreamed in years past.

## AMERICAN CAPITALISTS INVEST HEAVILY IN CANADA.

That is not all. Our neighbors, the shrewd and far-seeing business men of this great republic are not blind to the situation in Canada. They are coming in with their millions to exploit various enterprises. Keen men of means in the old world are also bidding for a share in our prosperity. Capital is being invested in many ways and with bright prospects of large returns. With a steadily increasing immigration and the expenditure of tens of millions in great public works, it is quite reasonable to expect a continuation of older provinces and the new will go ahead rapidly, adding month by month to their material interests and ever widening their plans for the future.

No one can say what Canada may be even 10 years hence. Events are moving fast. The energies of our people have been aroused, and it would not be prudent to fix limitations to what they may accomplish. The foundations of the new Canada are wide and deep. They rest in our enormous resources of fertile land, almost limitless forests, rich mineral areas, inexhaustible fisheries and diversified industries. We have coal and we have immense water powers. In fact, we have all the essential elements of a strong and self-contained nation, with our three great railways we are going to be in a position to do business on our full capacity.

We were always proud to call ourselves Canadians; but it is with a new pride that we now stand before the world. You, who have made this the land of your adoption, will share in that feeling. Thousands of other Canadians in this great land are also looking with joy and satisfaction upon the progress being made by their native country. Thousands of them will come back to take their part in the up-building of this new Canada. The latch-string is out, and a hearty welcome awaits them.

In conclusion, let me say again how glad I am to be with you, and to have this privilege of talking to you about the land of your birth. The Canada we all love so well. And I think you will gladly join with me in the sentiment so well expressed years ago in the lines: "This is the land of every land the pride, beloved by heaven, o'er all the world beside—Canada, my home and yours in the years ago."

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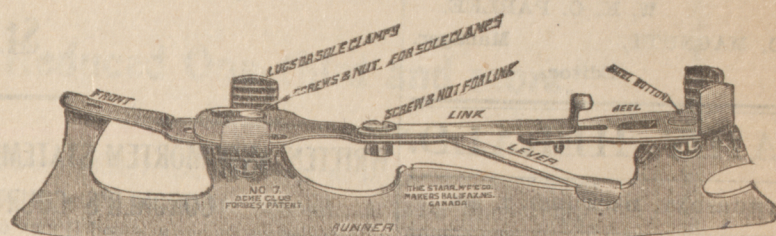
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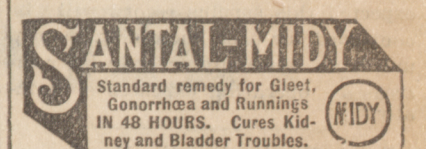
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