

STRANGE VIEW

STANIN OF CANADA BY A WRITER.

Why United States Capitalists Invest Here They Evade The Tariff—The Imperial Sentiment.

In Montreal, Says This Writer. A speech from Montreal to the St. Louis Republic, written by a staff correspondent who is investigating the reciprocal agreement in Canada, says along the tariff wall between the United States and Canada has proved the cornerstone of the recent growth and prosperity of manufacturing industries in the dominion.

In seven years more than \$20,000,000 of American money has been invested at Montreal in factories. An equal sum of Canadian money has been put into enterprises which originated in the United States, but which have been brought hither and installed for the original and final purpose of capturing the Canadian market by evading the tariff.

The province of Quebec, Montreal especially, is keen for the induction of foreign capital. Nothing could have better nourished this desire than the Canadian port duty on articles of foreign manufacture and the prohibitive American import on stufs made in Canada.

Within seven years a total of nearly \$50,000,000 has been invested in manufacturing businesses here, to the end that this province and its tributary territory are no longer dependent or subservient to American interests in the lines included.

In Montreal, if anywhere in Canada one will find that the dominant manufacturer is pleased with the tariff obstruction that the public disliked. One half the factories of this great city of half a million population are of American origin, engorged chiefly by American money, and devoted to nothing but the "easy chance."

The Canadian capitalists associated with these American born industries are ignorant of all manufacturing methods, American ports are used here, to the end that Montreal threatens to become the fountain head and focal point of Canadian manufacturing industries.

The manufacturing here is no advocate of reciprocity. American as many of the domestic manufacturers are, they are making no outcry for reciprocity or free trade. The Canadian branch of the American factory here has an advantage in tariff conditions as they exist, that works most successfully.

England, in spite of the preferential discount, is at a disadvantage as compared with the local factor. For the English factory exporting to Canada is not exempt, while the American-Canadian rival, operating here so as to evade the tariff, has the "call" both in resident labor and in contiguity to the vast market of stale.

Montreal is the woolen and cotton manufacturing centre of the dominion. It buys all its raw material from the United States, for raw material is free of import in these lines, and the cities furnish the natural market. Labor, skilled and unskilled, is cheaper here than in the United States, although not cheaper than that of Britain. But the Canadian tariff and the long water haul from Liverpool, Glasgow and London leave the advantages wholly with the local makers of garments, contrivances and woven material.

Going to the Montreal manufacturer, he will tell you he is doing well enough. The chances are nine to ten that you will find an American superintendent, an American manager or an American proprietor in the factories of Montreal. If you go through the factory itself, you will find a preponderance of skilled labour from the United States. Here now are money, brains, labor—all induced from Uncle Sam's domain to develop and realize upon the resources of Canada—and induced to come here by what? The desire and perhaps the necessity to evade the tariff wall which separates the two countries.

Effect Of American Money.

The advent of American money, American ingenuity and American industry is doing more than anything else to reconstruct Canada, and especially Quebec province, to the attractive conditions of the tariffs of the two countries.

The American manufacturer who comes here, forced to do so by apparently insuperable restrictions on our international trade, finds he comes at once a friend of those circumstances which induce him to establish a "Canadian branch."

The big business men here by American birth and training had, so far as the city and provinces are concerned, a disastrous effect. They gave work to the natives; they helped to stop emigration to the states; they circumvented many of them; they enhanced all activities, either civic or provincial. In a word, Montreal and Quebec are pleased with the incursion of American money, American industry, American methods of manufacturing and trade.

Being pleased and looking for profit, many of the happy conditions they say: "It is the tariff." True, this is a phase of the situation which to an American does not present itself in any of the maritime provinces.

Visiting, say, fifty of the manufacturers and jobbers of Montreal, I find the former uniformly favorable to the existing tariff embargoes. What could be more logical, or, for that matter, more selfish? But with the jobber, also wholesale, it is different. He would like to have an open market. He wants reciprocity, and he is in the majority, of course.

He would like to buy in New York, in Boston, in Chicago, in open competition for low prices and equal values, if there were no intervening tariff.

The consumer, more numerous still, also wants his wares at the lowest price consistent with staple values.

So that the retail dealer, the jobber and the consumer of Montreal and Quebec, are, for selfish but reasonable reasons, favorable to reciprocity with the states.

But the manufacturing element in politics, in influence, in weight, invested interests, outside public opinion, and has been, up to the dominant part of politics. One may walk the streets of Montreal, seeing

questions of shopkeepers, buyers, mechanics and idlers, and gain the impression that free trade, in the content, is the wish and purpose of the people. But an hour's talk with the invited manufacturing chief will prove to you that the rich minority is more powerful at Ottawa and more active at the polls than public sentiment.

And it may edify American readers to know that this overshadowing, ponderous, pro-tariff domination in Quebec, and especially in Montreal, is exercised by manufacturers of American origin and of American methods, in the lines described thus briefly: it is evident that Canada is not "getting the worst" of the existing tariff regulations between the two countries.

So far as Montreal itself is concerned, there is no British imperial continental at work. It is wholly continental, and dominantly Roman Catholic, and therefore, anti-English. I have in my hand the report of a speech made by a liberal "quidnunc" in which the writer told his audience of French inhabitants that Queen Victoria, with her own hand, named Sir John Thompson, because she had changed her religion from Anglican Protestantism to Roman Catholicism. And the audience believed its writer. The rural districts of Quebec offer the most illiterate electorate to be found in all this continent outside of old Mexico. They are French by extraction, Canadians by ancestry, English by tolerance and sympathy in desire.

The province of Quebec, in which Montreal is at the head of tide-water navigation, has no winter port. With its shipments it cannot reach the outside world except by a long rail haul to Port Huron. Its winter commerce, therefore, trends logically and unavoidably toward the United States, but the American tariff demands considerable concessions, and the traffic from Montreal and Quebec through parts of Maine, Massachusetts and New York is all in boats, bound for the British ports and the shipping centers of the West Indies.

The preponderance of sentiment in favor of reciprocity with the United States is an inevitable and evident result of the conditions here set forth with regard to Montreal and this province. But it must be remembered that the manufacturing interest, which is in the ascendancy as to political influence, and which basically is largely American, is in favor of the existing tariffs.

INTERESTING FACTS.

About Manitoba And The Northwest.

Canada has the largest continuous wheat field in the world.

Canada's wheat field is approximately 300,000 miles in extent.

Canada's wheat-growing area is the west of the prairies according to Prof. Saunders, 171,000,000 acres in extent.

If one-quarter of the 171,000,000 acres was under wheat, it would not only supply the British demand three times over, but the home market also.

Manitoba has only 10 per cent. of her lands taken up.

Manitoba's area under wheat, 1904, is 10 per cent. more than 1903.

Canada's North-West land areas are 50 per cent. larger than of the Western States.

North-West Territories' area under wheat, 1904, is 20 per cent. more than 1903.

Ten million acres of North-West lands were acquired by settlement by grant and purchase in 1903.

Thirty-one thousand three hundred and eighty-three homestead entries were made in the North-West in 1903.

Sixty-four thousand homestead entries were made in the North-West in the last three years, equal to 10,000,000 acres.

The entries for 1903 were double the number of 1902, and as many as for three years previous.

The 31,383 homestead entries of 1903 made an addition of 89,907 to the population.

The North-West land companies and railways sold, in 1903, 4,000,000 acres of land for over \$14,000,000.

The C. P. R. has sold over 5,000,000 acres of its land grant of 25,000,000 acres.

The 5,000,000 acres realized \$15,000,000, an average of \$3.00 per acre.

Canada has given 57,000,000 acres of land to railway companies in the North-West—an area as large as Australia.

Of the 31,383 homestead entries in 1903, 11,341 were taken up by Americans who came from forty-three states and territories. Dakota, west 4,000, and Minnesota 3,987.

Manitoba's population has two of English speech to one of foreign speech.

The North-West Territories have 34,000 of foreign birth, and 74,870 of Canadian and British origin.

Canada has 10,000 miles of rivers west of Lake Superior navigable by steamers.

Winnipeg is Canada's half-way house between oceans.

Winnipeg ranks third in Canadian cities in her cheering house business.

Manitoba's greatest wheat year was in 1903, when the yield was 27 bushels to the acre.

Bongard's Notes.

Bongard, Sept. 8.—Mr. and Mrs. R. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Williams, and Miss Sarah Bradley, who have been at Toronto exhibition have returned. Miss Gertie Reid has been the guest of Miss G. Williams. E. H. Kemp and children have left for their home in New Athens. T. R. Briscoe of Lagnier, has been visiting his parents. Mrs. James Patterson visited Mrs. J. D. Bongard last week. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bongard and Mr. Levi Pierce are taking in the sights at Toronto this week. The Misses David went down to Kingston on Monday. H. Trumper was at T. R. Briscoe's on Sunday last.

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