

(October 24)

New Zealand—Its Scenic Attractions and Trade Possibilities for Canada.

BY MR. W. H. TRIGGS.*

ADDRESSING the Canadian Club on the subject of "New Zealand—Its Scenic Attractions and Trade Possibilities for Canada," Mr. W. H. Triggs said:

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—Members of the profession to which I have the honor to be annexed are supposed to be equal to any emergency. It is recorded of one enterprising editor that so fully was he prepared that he had two editorials written on the Day of Judgment—one to be used if it took place according to schedule, and the other in case, by reason of some unforeseen occurrence, it was unavoidably postponed. I confess, however, that when I was asked by your secretary to address you upon this occasion, I was a good deal taken back. You see, speaking is not my vocation. My work has consisted largely of criticizing speeches—not of making them. I now find that it is a good deal easier to criticize the other fellow's speech than it is to make one yourself.

Nevertheless when I was asked to address such an important gathering as this on the subject of New Zealand, I felt a very great compliment was paid, not only to me, but also to my country, and one which I ought not lightly to refuse.

There are two points about the Dominion of New Zealand which I want to make clear to you at the outset, and that is, first, that it is a very small country compared with this great continent Dominion of yours; and, secondly, that it is a very young country. New Zealand, in fact, has only six-sevenths of the area of the United Kingdom, while the length of its two principal islands is 1,100 miles from north to south. Unlike conditions here in Canada, the north is warm and the south cold. In the north we grow oranges, lemons and olives, while the south strongly resembles Scotland in climate, only it has more sunshine. Here we grow oats and turnips. The climate generally has been compared to that of Italy. It has no great

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extremes. And, withal, New Zealand is the healthiest country in the world. Its death rate is 9.57, which is the lowest in the world. It is a narrow country, no part of it being more than 75 miles from the sea. It is said, in fact, that you can depend upon recognizing a resident of the capital city of Wellington in any part of the world, because whenever he comes to the corner of a street, he instinctively clutches his hat. The population is roughly speaking one million, of which some 40,000 are aborigine inhabitants.

New Zealand has no metropolis—no overshadowingly large city. But the island has four splendid cities, each having between 60,000 and 70,000 population. These are Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

Now in this little talk of mine I would like to take you all with me on a trip to New Zealand. I should like to start you a little earlier than this. If I were addressing Englishmen I should seek to take them at such a time as to escape their winter; although this year I understand they escaped their winter anyway. But you Canadians consider your winter, I am told, as the best part of your year, and most delightful. If you left, say in the early part of October you would arrive in New Zealand's early summer. I think you would find it a delightful trip. You would have the benefit and advantage of seeing the beautiful part of your own country, the Rockies, at its best. You would proceed through British Columbia to Vancouver and thence go by vessel to Honolulu, and on to Fiji and then to Auckland, our northern city.

Auckland is a very beautiful city. You could visit the wonderful Thermal district with its magnificent natural baths and hot springs, and its dazzling color effects. It has more of these springs than in any country in Europe or in any country of its own size in the world. Among the chief features of the mineral springs in this district, which is the volcanic district, are the healing qualities of their waters. Patients come from all over to be treated for rheumatism and skin diseases. Moreover, Madame Racheal professed by them to make people beautiful forever. The natives do all their washing in the boiling springs and many cook in them.

The scenery in the southern island is very fine, with its magnificent mountains and lakes and fiords. The highest mountain is Mount Cook, which is 12,500 feet high, and there are a number of other peaks 9,000 or 10,000 feet high which have not yet been climbed, so there is plenty of opportunity for your Alpine climbers.

In 1840 New Zealand was proclaimed a British colony. The natives gave over the sovereignty of the country to Queen Victoria. These natives were brave and chivalrous, but they had their weaknesses. I think it was Sidney Smith who said to Bishop Selwyn, when that noble missionary was about to inaugurate his work, "I understand they have cold missionary on the side-board. I hope it will not disagree with any of your folk."

But New Zealand is not wholly given over to scenery. She is a country of rich and varied resources. Her average wheat yield during the last ten years has been 31.55 bushels per acre, and her average yield of oats 99.27 bushels per acre, while thirty-six million acres are in sown grass, and she produced twenty-four million sheep. She has more land in sown grass than Australia and Tasmania. In mining, New Zealand produces over two million tons of coal per year, some of it of very fine quality, and her gold yield is ten million dollars per year.

New Zealand's exports total one hundred and twenty million dollars' worth per year, and her imports about ninety million dollars' worth. From the United States we take about ten million dollars' worth of goods. Now what I want to know is why should not a great deal of those imports come from Canada instead of from the country to the south?

Let me tell you, gentlemen, that we in New Zealand have a very great admiration and affection for Canada. We like the Canadians who have visited our shores. In 1906 we held our international exhibition in Christchurch; the Canadian exhibit, on which your government spent some \$50,000, was one of its finest features and was continually thronged with visitors. More than this, our men fought alongside of yours in South Africa and sealed with them a blood brotherhood which can never be forgotten. I think I can say that we in New Zealand are honestly doing our part to bring about a closer union between the two countries.

Our little Dominion has developed the commercial and maritime spirit so strongly that it has become the parent of two powerful shipping companies, one of which has started recently a line of cargo steamers between New Zealand ports and Montreal. I believe the prospects of that new service are considered quite satisfactory, and I have no doubt that it will be the means of diverting a good deal of the New Zealand trade, which at present goes to the United States.

Another thing. We have a preferential tariff in New Zealand, and one result of the preferential tariff framed by our country is that while all the newspapers in the colony formerly

obtained their paper from the United States, now most of them procure it from Canada.

Lastly—and being a newspaper man this appeals to me—the newspapers can do something to spread the knowledge of your country in ours and ours in yours. The Press Association of New Zealand has appointed a correspondent at Vancouver to collect Canadian and American news, and has also arranged to cable Australia. He is also instructed to furnish to Canadian papers all New Zealand news, and I think all citizens of both countries should give their hearty approval and aid to such steps as are being taken to bring about a better exchange of news between the two Dominions.

In closing let me say that I should be extremely gratified if, as a result of my little and faulty talk to you to-day, some inspiration has reached the keen, trained, commercial brains in this room, and shall set them to work in such a way as to stimulate the process of bringing the two Dominions—the great Dominion of Canada and the little Dominion of New Zealand—more closely together.