

other parts of the world, is a substantial reduction in the crop of political and social agitators, who are keeping the pools of discontent stirred up; and a common sense recognition of the fact that normal conditions cannot be restored by feeding fire with gasolene.

In my judgment there is no short cut, or primrose path to re-establishment, nor is there any quack political nostrum on the market which can be relied upon to give this country, or any country, immediate relief. The only remedy is work and more work, production and more production.

It is gratifying to note, in regard to the world's condition that some progress has been made in the stupendous work of clearing up international problems. The treaties with Germany, Austria, and Bulgaria, have been ratified, and we can hope that ere long these settlements will produce results that will be beneficially felt in all countries that were engaged in the war.

Referring to our own country, I have no hesitation in believing that it came through the war, and so far, through after the war conditions, with a record of achievements, that should be an inspiration to all the people of Canada. Mr. Speaker, our history is the history of the war. We were in it from first to last. We did not wait to be driven into it. We heard the call to duty, even before it was sounded, and responded in men, women, and treasure until the last gun was fired. We have the glorious record of work well performed.

We came out of the war with our unlimited natural resources unimpaired, we have immense potential wealth in our agricultural, mineral, fishery, and commercial enterprises, we have a virile and progressive people, and we should have unbounded faith in our country. We have, it is true, increased financial liabilities, but a very large part of these are in the control of our own people. Our fathers were never dismayed by the mountains of undertakings which confronted them, and as I see it, there is no reason why we should falter in the great work of nation building so well begun by them, and now resting upon our shoulders.

Looking the situation over, I do not see any country whose stability is more certain, and whose future is better assured than our own. We have come through the maelstrom as well as any of them, and better than many, and in this regard we do not accept second place even with the great republic to the south of us.

There was some fear that during the winter months, conditions might be trying. Our

[Mr. McGregor.]

valiant soldiers and their dependents were returning and it was said that business depression might set in, and unemployment be unprecedented, but happily the evil days did not come. The Government organizations for taking care of returned men and providing employment, worked smoothly and successfully. Business men generally and employers of labour everywhere throughout the country were diligent in organizing to provide work for returned men and others. There has been expansion instead of depression, and on the whole it is a safe statement to make that we have had more satisfactory conditions than any other country that was involved in the war.

Our trade returns for the twelve months ending with December last show that the total imports of merchandise for consumption and the total exports of merchandise, amounted to the grand total of \$2,235,928,072, which is \$82,049,160 greater than in the year 1918.

Of the figures for 1919 the imports were \$941,007,700; our exports were \$1,294,920,372.

Of the imports \$607,482,288 were dutiable and \$333,555,412 were free. The duties collected amounted to \$168,920,659.

The imports of 1919 exceeded those of 1918 by \$30,858,560, and the exports of 1919 exceeded those of 1918 by \$51,190,600.

In view of the recent depreciation of the Canadian dollar in the United States, we are much interested in the trade with that country. The returns show that in 1919 we bought from the United States goods to the value of \$740,580,225. Whereas we only sold them goods to the value of \$454,636,294. Needless to say we should endeavour to reduce the adverse balance, by buying Canadian goods instead of American productions.

On the other hand, it is interesting to note our trade with the Mother Country. In 1919 we sold the United Kingdom goods to the value of \$528,035,514, whereas we only bought the relatively small value of \$87,516,819.

Turning to another subject, may I remark on the fact that we appear to be drifting politically into class divisions. I have no quarrel with the movement; it may be well for those ambitious classes to experience what the responsibility of national government means. They will discover that it is an entirely different thing from government of a class. The truth is simple enough; no class can as a class govern this country, the class will have to cease to be a class, or the country will end the authority of the class.

Mr. Speaker, there is one class of people in Canada, and in other countries as well,