

OFFICIAL figures from Washington show that in a year's time our total importation from the United States of what may be classed as luxuries amounted to about forty million dollars. I have delved through "dry as dust" statistics issued by the U. S. Government, which for detail are later than those obtainable at Ottawa. The search reveals that in the twelve months ended June 30th, 1917, which closed the fiscal year for the United States, our total business of swap with the United States, exports and imports is \$1,108,478,000.

Our first "billion dollar trade year, with Uncle Sam! Of chief concern to Canada, in view of recent Government action, is an "unfavorable balance" amounting to \$466,580,000, which has been rolled up in the 12 months under review. Comprising practically 10 per cent. of this "unfavorable balance" are such outstanding "luxuries" as automobiles, furs, phonographs and moving picture films. The blue book figures from Washington contain a complete list of our purchases from Uncle Sam, among which are the following:

Motor-cars, \$12,088,000; paper, books, etc., \$5,735,000; tobacco and tobacco products, \$3,479,000; boots and shoes, \$3,291,000; auto tires, \$1,485,000; furs, \$2,675,000; wearing apparel, \$2,579,000; phonographs, \$2,010,000; clocks and watches, \$1,466,000; moving picture films, \$1,111,000; apples, \$948,000; prunes, \$816,000; canned fruits, \$598,000; apricots, \$86,000; carriages, \$38,000.

Trade between these two friendly neighbors increased \$435,676,000 in a year's time. For the U. S. fiscal year 1916 total trade across our border was \$672,802,000, or 10.3% of the 6½ billion dollar trade done by the United States. In 1917 the total trade between Canada and the United States had expanded 64.7%, passing the billion dollar mark to \$1,108,478,000. Canada is the third best customer the U. S. has. Only the United Kingdom and France purchased more during 1917 in American markets than we did. Canada's figures represent 12.3% of

OUR BILLION-DOLLAR SWAP

How the Embargo on Imports Hits Us in the Trade Belt

By FRANK HODGINS

the \$8,953,155,000 trade turn over in the U. S.

Government books, which present such gloomy exteriors, often reveal interesting and little-dreamed-of facts. Washington official statisticians make it clear that Canada's chief swapping ability comes from her natural resources. For instance, Canada's export of first importance was wood and the manufactures of wood, which in the 12 months ended June, 1917, aggregated \$23,810,000. Of our paper and the manufactures of paper the U. S. took \$23,510,000, and of wood pulp \$22,172,000. In other words almost 70 million dollars' worth of our forest products. Next in importance, \$17,352,000 export of flaxseed.

What of our principal purchases next door? Coal heads the list; \$32,842,000 bituminous and \$25,214,000 anthracite. Nearly 33 millions to keep our mills going; 25 millions to warm our homes in winter.

One of the surprises of the latest trade figures is the grand total of our bacon purchases in the U. S. We are hearing so much of bacon these days. In 1916 Canada bought \$5,342,000 worth of bacon in the American market. In the succeeding 12 months this item had risen to a total of \$21,366,000 or 302.3% more. Old H. C. L. doubtless had much to do with the remarkable increase in values. At the same time, however, there was a huge increase in the actual quantity of bacon brought into this country

from the American markets. In 1916 Canada's importation of bacon was 35½ million pounds; in 1917, nearly 119 million pounds. Contrast this with 10 million pounds, worth \$1,363,000 in 1915.

At this time exception may be taken to a classification of automobiles as luxury imports. It will be argued that these are for commercial or war purposes. But at least 75% of our motor car purchases are of the pleasure type.

That Canada should import from the United States \$2,675,000 worth of furs is somewhat curious, when consideration is given to Canada's rich asset in fur-bearing animals. Canada sold to the United States 5¼ million dollars' worth of furs. But why did she buy back again 2¼ million dollars' worth?

Washington's figures will occasion further surprise in disclosing that Canada, an apple growing country, should have bought nearly one million dollars' worth of apples. The wonder grows with the remembrance of conditions in any Ontario or Nova Scotia orchard—apples allowed to waste by the thousands of barrels, apples that drop from the trees and rot on the ground by tons. Big crop or poor crop in the past decade there has not been a year when the dweller in Canadian cities could buy apples cheap. Apples a glut in our orchards, but a million dollars' worth bought in foreign markets!

More than 3 million dollars' worth of boots and shoes imported when prominent Canadian manufacturers cannot pay the preferred interest claims upon capital invested in this industry in the Dominion. Most of the boots are of the more fashionable type. And this accent upon the expensive fashionable occurs again in our purchase of 2½ million dollars' worth of wearing apparel; importations that are purely luxury buying, at the instance of the wealthy class, who demand the ultra-fashionable.

Perhaps one is unnecessarily severe in drawing a distinction, classing phonographs and "movie" films as luxuries—2 million dollars' worth of the former and over 1 million dollars' worth of the latter.

The Baconian Theory

ALFRED WARWICK GATTIE, in The Nineteenth Century, declares that thousands of tons of Denmark bacon rotted in England because of a lack of railway haulage. We have been led to believe in Canada that we should do without bacon so that our men at the front might have it. But if this Denmark bacon was going to the front, why was it sent to England? Nevertheless, even though civilians in England may be eating bacon, we shall continue to endorse the sentiment expressed in the accompanying cartoon . . . Porkophile.



W. the W. Canadian: "My Palestine fellow-citizen, you're right. I'll eat no more pig so long as the boys at the front need pork."

The Great Human Race

ONCE upon a time there was a quiet preacher in wooden shoes who lectured on The Simple Life and the virtue of leisure. While he was in Canada he was the guest of a man who is now a baronet. Pastor Wagner died a few days ago. The accompanying article and sketches indicate how the world has profited by his teachings.

By WILL FROST

IT is a pet theory of mine own that the North American is born with the Dollar Mark (\$) heavily embossed on the inner side of his cranium; that this excrescence, pressing constantly upon the grey matter of his brain, impels him to rush—chiefly in pursuit of the almighty but elusive dollar—from the cradle to the grave. He hasn't time to wonder why, it is in his blood, he has simply "gotta rush."

Should you catch him in an exhausted state—between rushes—he will probably explain to your simplicity that if he doesn't rush, he'll "get left," implying unspeakable horrors.

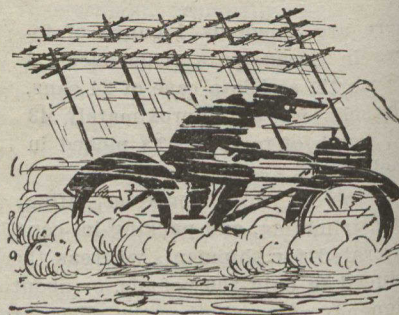
We go forth to see the scenery on a motor cycle, or catch hurried glimpses of nature through the windows of an express train and fondly imagine we are enjoying the views, albeit we are reminded of a movie picture show when the operator spins off the reel in a hurry.

Thanks to the philanthropic (sic) Mr. Ford, all the world is rapidly getting itself on wheels and the humble pedestrian is regarded with a pitying

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Bagging the Dollarfly.



Seeing the Scenery.



End of a Perfect Day.