

In looking at the profits made by some of the woollen industries, which are well conducted, I find that their annual statements show large profits, quite satisfactory to the shareholders. I think I have demonstrated by the figures given that the boot and shoe manufacturers have no cause for complaint regarding the importations under the preference to Great Britain. The increase has been but infinitesimal and represents in the total, as I have said, with the importations from the United States and elsewhere, only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of our total production and importation.

Before closing these remarks I desire to draw attention to the increased business we have done with France. In the nine months ending December 31, 1922, our exports to France were \$10,634,448. Our exports for the nine months ending December 31, 1923, were \$13,865,022, an increase of \$3,230,574. Our imports during those two periods were: in the nine months to December 31, 1922, \$9,354,566, and to December 31, 1923, \$11,749,515, an increase of \$2,394,849.

Under the treaty, which came into effect in September last, the imports from France amounted to \$4,351,148 during the months of October, November and December, being an increase of \$869,943 in comparison with the same period in 1922.

The exports to France of Canadian produce amounted to \$6,240,493 during the same period in 1923, being an increase of \$2,083,431 in comparison with the same months in 1922.

This increase in our exports is all the more commendable because of the present depreciated French currency. I may say that I attribute a good share of this increase of our exports to France to the splendid work done by an honourable member of this House, the honourable gentleman from Montarville (Hon. Mr. Beaubien), who gave five months of his time, from July to November, in travelling through France with the Canadian exhibit and explaining the advantages of our Canadian market. I am sure that when the franc moves back to normal, or even before it is half way back, our trade with France will be of considerable benefit to our manufacturers. I desire, in the name of the Government to thank our colleague for the commendable, devoted work which he has done in the interest of Canada.

Hon. G. D. ROBERTSON: Honourable gentlemen, may I join in expressions of congratulation and felicitation to the mover and the seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech which His Excellency was pleased

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

to read to Parliament. I think the Government too are to be congratulated upon their sagacity in selecting an experienced parliamentarian to move the Address in reply, in view of the difficulty which anyone must encounter in endeavouring to justify all that is contained in the Speech.

To the seconder of the Address may I extend greetings. We are always glad to welcome to this Chamber gentlemen from different parts of Canada who by their ability and by the esteem which they have won from their fellow citizens in the province in which they live, have received merited recognition by promotion and appointment to the Senate. I feel that the Government are to be congratulated in the selection of the gentlemen who moved and seconded the Address.

It is not to be expected that all men should agree on all subjects. If we all agreed this would be, I suppose, a very humdrum sort of world. But seldom have I found myself in such acute disagreement with the statements of public men as in the case of the opening sentence of the Address prepared by the Government and read by His Excellency. In that opening sentence reference is made to the many evidences of increased prosperity in Canada. Looking back over the past year and over the entire country, and endeavouring to discover some particular thing that might be regarded as prosperity or evidence of prosperity in Canada, almost the first thing that impresses one is our financial condition. How is our balance sheet as compared with what it was a year ago? When we realize that our national debt is approximately \$100,000,000 in excess of what it was when this Government came into power, one can hardly conclude that that is an evidence of great prosperity.

The next thought that occurs to one is perhaps the question of taxation, and when we recall the additional burdens of taxation that have been laid upon the people of this country during the past two years, we can hardly satisfy our consciences with the reply that those have been evidences of prosperity. When one remembers the solemn pledges made by the present Government not long ago that the burden of taxation would be lifted from the people and the cost of living reduced, and realizes that during the past two years the cost of living has advanced, one feels that there is not much reason for gratification on the part of the humble citizen who has felt more than any other member of the community the additional burden of taxation the country is bearing. None of these things seem to indicate any great prosperity.