

The Budget—Mr. Murdock

More signs of prosperity in factories here. McLaren's working day and night on orders. Steel Company opens mill at Ontario plant. B. Greening Wire is using some double shifts.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Record, February 13, 1925, says:

Cost of charity is much smaller. Little being spent on relief this winter in comparison with last year; believe \$9,000 will cover bill.

The Smiths Falls Record News, February 26, 1925, says:

Almost a record staff of men at work in the Frost and Wood Company's implement plant. Some excellent foreign orders have been received, which they are busy working on at present, and shipments of carloads are being made daily to the seaboard.

Reductions in the price of farm implements were made last April and further reductions became effective in December, and there is every evidence that these lower prices to the farmer have already stimulated the placing of orders that had been held back by the higher prices which prevailed during the past few years.

The Hamilton Herald of March 3, states:

Other Hamilton firms feel the return of better times.

The Globe of February 13, states:

Hamilton factories find business good. Working full time and on Saturday afternoons—extra hands engaged.

The Ottawa Citizen of March 31, says:

Profits practically doubled by Smelting Company of Canada.

The Hamilton Herald of March 27, states:

Industry in Hamilton to get impetus. Brightest outlook in years, says C. W. Kirkpatrick, New plants likely. Many delegations visiting city with an eye for industrial sites.

There have been more inquiries and delegations here during March than during any two months last year," said Mr. Kirkpatrick. "The department has had an average of one and two delegations studying the industrial situation and looking over industrial sites in this city every day this month."

This is all optimism, something that our hon. friends opposite should take a large dose of.

The Hamilton Spectator of March 28, under an editorial caption "Looking Up," has this to say:

The period of depression through which Canada has been passing has been extended longer than was really necessary, it is now admitted, because of the fact that money was both tight and afraid. If industrial representatives are now seeking sites for expansion, it can only be interpreted as meaning that investors realize the time to put their money to work again is at hand. The improvement in the local unemployment situation has not been sensational, but it has been steady. By ones and twos the army of the jobless is being depleted, as the men return to lathe and bench and make the acquaintance of pay envelopes again. It will not be a boom year, but there is every evidence that trade and commerce will be more brisk than it has been in any other year since the armistice. The greatest asset will be confidence.

I commend that to the consideration of my hon. friends opposite.

[Mr. Murdock.]

The Chatham News of March 28, says:

Chatham Sheet Metal Works well pleased with prospect for business this season.

The London Free Press of March 28, states:

Sheet Metal Works is opened in city.

The Toronto Globe of March 27, says:

Prosperous season for wool growers. Nice surplus for distribution among shareholders and shippers.

Then it goes on to say:

The Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers are smiling. After transferring \$10,000 to reserve, paying an 8 per cent dividend on capital stock, and reserving over \$2,000 for income taxes, the company still has sufficient surplus on the year's operation to pay bonus of one-third cent per pound to all 1924 shippers.

I come now to the monthly letter of the Royal Bank of Canada and I find this:

In Ontario, statements from 5,832 concerns, employing 709,878 people on February 1, 1925, indicate an increase of 16,821 over the number employed at the beginning of the year. The labour requirements, both in manufacturing and logging, are increasing.

Then we find in Agricultural and Industrial Progress in Canada, published by the Canadian Pacific, a publication which was referred to a short time ago, this article under date of April, 1925:

Montreal, Que.—An increase of approximately 50 per cent has taken place in the live cattle exports to the United Kingdom in the period January 1 to March 19, 1925, as compared with the corresponding period last year. Up to March 19 the exports of cattle in 1925 were 14,662 head, as compared with 10,531 in the same period in 1924 and 9,511 in 1923.

Ottawa, Ont.—Canada exported meats to the value of \$2,528,070 during the month of February, as compared with exports of \$1,294,046 in the corresponding month of 1924, according to a report of the External Trade Branch. Shipments for the twelve months ending February, 1925, had a total value of \$27,843,848, compared with shipments worth \$22,291,355 in the preceding twelve-month period.

That does not look like too bad business.

Ottawa, Ont.—Canada's exports of automobiles continue to increase and New Zealand is the Dominion's best customer for such vehicles. Last month a total of 4,008 passenger autos, valued at \$1,843,551 were exported, and of these New Zealand took 1,114. These shipments compare favourably with January when 3,732 autos were exported and with February, 1924, when 3,230 were dispatched to foreign markets.

Hamilton, Ont.—There has been a noticeable revival of building activity in Hamilton since the beginning of the year and, if present anticipated business crystallizes, the city will experience in 1925 one of the best building seasons for some years. The latest project on foot here is the announcement that from forty to fifty residences will be built by one contractor in a new section of the city being developed.

Winnipeg, Man.—Approximately \$1,000,000 ahead of last year, to date, in contracts let and buildings under construction.