

tion of Canadian products during the first nine months of the present fiscal year exceeded by \$300,000,000 the total trade of this country ten years ago. That is a remarkable fact. It indicates that under war conditions the stability and production of the country have been maintained. It is a tribute to the productive power of this country, the industry, activity and enterprise of the people and their ability to take advantage of their opportunities for production.

Now, there are some other departments of the Government that have had unusual duties to perform as well. The Minister of Justice has taken charge of the internment of alien enemies, and he has established camps in various parts of the country. He and the officers of his department have been charged with enforcing the regulations respecting the possession of arms by persons of enemy nationality who are resident in Canada. At the internment camps, which have been established in different parts of the country, work has been provided and from time to time, as labour conditions seemed to render it necessary, aliens, whose character and conduct had been unexceptionable, and who were of good will, have been permitted to engage in the ordinary activities of the country and to earn their own livelihood. In connection with that, I should observe that two camps which I had the opportunity of seeing during my recent tour in aid of National Service, one situated in the northern part of the province of Quebec and the other in the northern part of the province of Ontario, are, as I understand, to be utilized as experimental and demonstration farms, and that the district where they are situated is of a character to indicate that settlement on a considerable scale may be expected there when once it has been shown, as it will be shown by these demonstration farms, that the opportunities for profitable agriculture are very advantageous.

The Royal Northwest Mounted Police have had very important, and somewhat unusual, duties to perform in connection with the war. I do not think too much credit can be given for the good work which that force has done. They have had to use tact and firmness, and the results in certain communities in western Canada, where one might expect some unrest, have been on the whole all that could be expected or even desired.

The Department of Customs has been charged with the recommendation and

enforcement of regulations respecting the exportation of articles useful in connection with the war. An enormous amount of responsibility has been imposed on the Government, and chiefly upon the Minister of Customs and his officials, in this respect. There is scarcely a day, and certainly not a week, in which some subject in this connection has not to be taken up. The object, of course, is to restrict to allied countries the exportation of articles which may be of use to the enemy in connection with the war, and to restrict as much as possible the exportation of these articles under any conditions in which they might become of use to the enemy. In the same way questions have sometimes come up with respect to the importation of articles which were of enemy origin in the first instance, but which are absolutely necessary for the maintenance of some Canadian industry essential to the war. All these questions have had to be carefully considered. We have had to take a great many of them up with the British Government, and in all cases the course which we have taken has been in full co-operation with, and has received the approval of, the British Government.

The withdrawal of a very large number of men from industrial activities has sometimes created difficult conditions in regard to labour, its employment and remuneration. I think a very just tribute should be paid to the labour men of Canada in connection with their attitude in such matters. There has been very little industrial disturbance considering the amount which has taken place in some other countries. The Minister of Labour has had unusually severe responsibilities imposed upon him. The Minister of Public Works has ably cooperated on many occasions with the Minister of Labour and has fully shared these responsibilities. The Minister of Labour has also been charged with duties under the provisions of the law which forbid combination to raise prices and the hoarding of commodities for the like purpose. As far as I understand the situation, these two elements are the only ones which the Government can effectually deal with, as conditions created by the war cannot, of course, be controlled by any governmental action.

Then, in common with all the railway systems of the country, the Canadian Government Railways have had to undertake the vastly increased business created by war conditions. They have transported 300,000 soldiers in Canada since the war broke out, and they have done that without any accident.