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Official Light on Canadian War Orders

TEN thousand contracts have been let, says a Government memorandum—Statement of the Director of Contracts is made public—Amounts chargeable to the War Vote—Making Shrapnel shells in Canada is Keeping 139 Companies Busy

THE first official details regarding Canadian war orders have at last appeared in a memorandum, just tabled in the House at Ottawa, respecting the work of the department of militia and defence. It gives an opportunity to supplement *The Monetary Times'* estimate of the value of war orders placed in Canada. To date, it would seem that at least \$95,000,000 of war materials and equipment have been ordered in this country by various governments, since August, according to figures gathered by *The Monetary Times*. The following is a summary:—

Orders, August to December 4th (see <i>The Monetary Times</i> , December 4th, page 5), estimated at	\$36,481,500
Orders, December 4th to December 25th, (see <i>The Monetary Times</i> , December 25th, page 24)	9,550,000
Orders, December 25th to January 1st, (see <i>The Monetary Times</i> , January 1st, page 26)	1,550,000
Orders, January 1st to January 8th, (see <i>The Monetary Times</i> , January 8th, page 26)	17,150,000
Orders, January 8th to January 29th, (see <i>The Monetary Times</i> , January 29th, page 24)	4,100,000
Orders for shrapnel shell (over and above those previously recorded)	10,000,000
Canadian government orders to December 31st, 1914, and not previously reported, (figures from memorandum of department of militia):—	
Horses	1,721,000
Clothing	3,809,415
Ammunition	200,848
Field guns	1,141,073
Motor cars, etc.	871,023
Saddlery & horse equipment	335,628
Other equipment	1,871,602
Purchases by Dominion militia department for British and other governments, reported at	6,400,000

Total estimated value of orders to date. \$95,182,089

The Monetary Times as previously stated, feels confident that this figure is below the actual amount. When complete official statistics are available, the aggregate sum

spent in war orders here is likely to be found much larger.

The total of war orders placed in the United States so far easily totals \$1,000,000,000, according to the Boston News Bureau. For 10 weeks to February 6 the United States balance of trade was running at an average of \$27,000,000 per week or nearly \$4,000,000 per day.

The memorandum recently tabled in the House at Ottawa states that in the past six months the contracts department of the militia department has bought supplies to the value of \$18,500,000 for the Canadian forces, besides harness, saddlery, blankets, etc., for British and foreign governments to the value of \$6,400,000. The total number of contracts entered into is estimated at 10,000. These include ordnance, small arms and ammunition, hardware and cutlery, vehicles, blankets, clothing of all kinds, drugs and medicines, surgical supplies, food for man and beast, saddlery and leather goods of many kinds, brushes and brooms, field glasses, and practically an endless variety of things necessary to fully equip ninety thousand troops. The department in buying most of its supplies has arranged for a reserve of 100 per cent. in the more important items, down to 30 per cent. in other items, as required by the war office.

The following are the official figures of purchases made by the Dominion government on behalf of the British and foreign governments:—

Goods ordered.	For	Value.
20,000 sets saddlery	Great Britain	\$ 910,000
3,500 sets harness	Great Britain	280,000
23,500 saddle blankets	Great Britain	71,910
20,000 sets saddlery	France	1,040,000
20,000 saddle blankets	France	61,200
457,900 grey blankets	France	1,854,495
20,000 sets saddlery	Russia	1,450,000
500,000 aluminum water bottles	(Not stated)	470,000
25,000 pairs artillery traces	(Not stated)	236,250
1,820 cwt. copper rod	(Not stated)	32,614
Total		\$6,406,469

The official statement of contracts made for stores, clothing, etc., for the Canadian expeditionary force, and chargeable to war appropriation, is given in the memorandum as follows:—Clothing, \$2,432,927.54; personal and camp equipment, \$1,957,881.06; wagons, carts, motors,