

before the war the total trade of Canada, exports and imports, amounted to \$1,000,000,000, and we congratulated ourselves upon the fact. It was wonderful that the total trade of Canada should be one-fifth of the total trade of Great Britain. Canada was coming on. For the first six months of the year just past the total trade of Canada exceeded \$1,000,000,000, which was the high-water mark for the year preceding the war, and this year we shall have a total trade of over \$2,000,000,000. And yet my hon. friends say there is no leadership. Of course, being modest men, we give the credit to the public. If my right hon. friend had found a condition like it he would take the credit for the party. We say that under our administration the favour of Providence, and the energy and intelligence and patriotism of the Canadian people, all these things have been accomplished.

The Minister of Finance was good enough, in apportioning the credit, to associate with the Administration a bountiful Providence and a generous, intelligent and patriotic Canadian people. He failed, however, to apportion the exact values to these three agencies, but I suppose that our

4 p.m. friends supporting the Government would, under urgent circumstances, take great care to give the Administration the major proportion of the credit, and a very small share to a bountiful Providence, and to a generous, intelligent and patriotic people. I almost feel like apologizing for occupying the time of the House in referring to this matter, but I wish to remove, if I can, the impression which hon. gentlemen opposite frequently seek to give the country that this great growth in our volume of trade is due almost entirely to the efforts of the Administration. I shall now give a few figures to indicate how directly war conditions are responsible for this trade development.

According to a return furnished on my motion some few days ago, I find we exported for the nine months of the fiscal year ending December 31, 1916, in value \$22,959,000 of explosives, whereas in 1914 we exported only \$228,000 worth. In guns, rifles, cartridges, rifles and ammunitions we exported \$160,310,000 for the same period in 1916, whereas during the year 1914 there was exported but \$143,921; \$5,187,000 is the money value of chemicals exported in 1916; it was less than a million dollars in 1914; \$4,419,000 represents the value of our exports of automobiles in 1916, as against nothing in 1914. Very large increases over the years before the war, were maintained last year in the export of horses, wheat, steel, iron, and the manufactures of iron and steel. The excess of exported manufactured goods in 1917 over

1914 will alone amount to over \$300,000,000.

I trust that hon. gentlemen will not consider that I am unnecessarily consuming the time of the House in seeking thus to accentuate the fact that our abnormal trade development is almost absolutely the result of unfortunate war conditions, that it is not a healthy or normal development, and that it must cease with the ending of the war, which we all hope will be soon. So, really, it does not afford us much ground for unbounded gratification. It is rather a situation of gravity, for the future at least, and contains many features demanding our serious consideration. Friends of the Administration are therefore not in a position to ascribe to this Government any credit or glory for this abnormal trade development.

I wish to say a few words with respect to our income and expenditure during the past year. According to the statement of the Minister of Finance this afternoon, our revenue from all sources during the past year was \$230,000,000, \$134,000,000 of which was derived from customs, \$24,000,000 from excise, and \$12,000,000 from the business profits tax. Our expenditure in consolidated revenue account and capital account combined amounted to \$170,000,000. This leaves a surplus of \$60,000,000 to be applied against war expenditure. We are also informed by the Minister of Finance that our war expenditures up to the end of last year had reached the tremendous sum of \$600,000,000; and he anticipates that at the end of the present fiscal year our national debt will amount to \$1,300,000,000. This will entail an interest charge of about \$65,000,000 a year. There will be a pension account also of about \$25,000,000 a year. That is to say, there will be fixed annual charges of from \$90,000,000 to \$95,000,000, or more than the total revenues of Canada from taxation in any year since Confederation, except for about five years and these all in the latter part of the last decade. We find that the war is costing us over \$1,000,000 a day. Now, I think that, if one were to go carefully into the figures it would be found that our contribution from revenue to war expenditures thus far has been less than \$60,000,000. Against the surplus of \$60,000,000 which we have to apply to war expenditure at the end of the last fiscal year this year, there was a considerable deficit in 1914 which must be reckoned into the calculation. I speak subject to correction, but I think we have