

000 was offset by a favourable balance in the four following years, from 1914 to 1919, that is, to an amount of no less than \$1,300,000,000. This was very satisfactory indeed for Canada, being face to face with the enormous debt which she had to assume as her fair and glorious share of this world war, the war of liberty and of civilization.

But what I need draw your attention to is not so much the past but the present. While I am speaking we are consuming this favourable balance of trade at the rate of about a million and a half a day. Let me quote some figures. The favourable trade balance, in 1918, was \$576,000,000; in 1919, \$296,000,000; in 1920, \$174,000,000. Let me now put before you, as business men, a comparative statement for the three last months of this year, as compared with the same period of last year. Taking March of 1919 and March of 1920, how do they compare? In 1919 we had a favourable balance of \$28,000,000. What have we this year? We have an unfavourable balance of \$49,000,000—a reversal of \$77,000,000 against Canada in one month. In April of last year we had a favourable balance, already declining, of \$10,000,000. What have we this year? In April, 1920, we have an unfavourable balance of \$44,000,000. Last year in the month of May we had a favourable balance of \$20,000,000. What have we this year? An unfavourable balance of over \$36,105,321. In the last three months, honourable gentlemen, we have already consumed no less than \$1,432,000 of our favourable balance. If we continue at this rate, in less than twelve months we shall have reduced it by no less than \$522,000,000, which means that practically, in two years, all that we have accumulated during the war will be gone. Am I therefore right in contending that every effort must be made to increase our exports and, if possible, to diminish our importations?

I have endeavoured to treat this as a business proposition and to find out where we have gained and where we have lost. A country has clients just the same as a corporation, a company or a business man. I have carefully examined the list of our customers; and have, first of all, eliminated all small countries with whom we do less than \$1,000,000 of business, a year; secondly, I have ranged off on one side those countries with whom we are doing what I would call a profitable business—a business which at the end of the year will leave us something to the good. I have put on the other side those countries to whom we are losing money. How do we stand?

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN.

The countries with which we have a favourable balance are fifteen in number. The first one, of course, is the British Empire. In trading with the British Empire we make no less than \$387,000,000. I know that the Government will do everything that is required in the near future to ensure that this favourable balance will be maintained and if possible increased. I have no doubt either as to their intention or their ability for so doing.

Hon. Mr. POWER: May I interrupt the honourable gentleman for a moment? Of what year is he speaking?

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: Of the twelve months ending on the 31st of March last.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: And the first three months of this year?

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: I think I made that quite clear. The British Empire is our best customer. Who do you think is our next best client? France, and with her we are no less than \$52,642 to the good. Let us continue. Then we come to Greece with \$28,888,000; then to Belgium and her colonies, with \$27,526,000; then to Italy, with \$15,962,000. Then we come to Roumania, with \$12,953,000. You know what money we have loaned to Roumania. We fall off very much indeed at this point as we come to China, with \$5,458,000; to Norway, with \$4,000,000; Sweden, with \$3,000,000; Denmark, with \$2,832,000; Albania, with \$2,741,000; the Netherlands, with practically \$1,500,000; Russia, with \$1,477,000; Turkey, with \$1,103,000; and finally we come to Brazil, with \$729,000.

What about the unfavourable balances? First of all comes our good neighbour to the south, with an unfavourable balance of no less than \$336,000,000; then comes Switzerland, with \$6,273,000; then Japan, with \$5,903,000; then Peru, with \$4,798,000; then Mexico, with \$2,238,000; then Cuba, with \$1,256,000, and, finally, Spain, with \$444,000.

Now let us ascertain how far these figures have been influenced by our commercial treaties. As already stated we deal with two groups of nations, one which pays us and the other which does not. We have had a favourable treaty with France. What has it given us? It brought us, just as soon as opportunity offered, no less than the amount which I have stated—over \$52,000,000—in the year just elapsed. You will say: "But why has this treaty been revoked?" It has been revoked for this reason: France, as you know, in 1871, shed her heart's blood, then she was bled of her gold,