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Epreuve illisible

COLOURED PAPER
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TELEGRAM

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From THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS
To THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA

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LONDON,

lost only 9000 tons. One must not dwell upon these reassuring figures too much for war is full of unpleasant surprises but certainly I am entitled to say that so far as they go these figures do not need to cause any undue despondency or alarm.

Meanwhile the whole vast business of our world wide trade continues without interruption and without appreciable diminution. Great convoys of troops are escorted to their various destinations. The enemy's ships and commerce have been swept from the seas. 2,000,000 tons of German shipping is now sheltering in German or interned in neutral harbours. Our system of contraband control, to which my Rt. Honourable Friend has just alluded, is being perfected and so far as the first Fortnight of the war is concerned for which alone I have the figures we have actually arrested, seized and converted to our own use 6500 tons more German merchandise than have been sunk in ships of our own. Even in oil, where we were unlucky in losing some tankers, we have lost 60,000 tons in the first Fortnight and gained 50,000 tons from the Enemy apart from the enormous additional stores we have brought safely and in the ordinary way. Again I reiterate my cautions against over-sanguine deductions. We have however, in fact got more supplies in this country this afternoon that we should have had had no war been declared and no U-Boat had come into action. It is not going beyond the limits of prudent statement if I say that at that rate it will take a long