

6. TRADE AND COMMERCE.

The abnormal trade conditions following the war threw a heavy burden upon the Department of Trade and Commerce which it carried most successfully. The complete upsetting of the international exchanges, the at first natural contraction of industry, with its disastrous results on commerce and finance, had to be counteracted, and so well was this done that at the height of the war, the fiscal year 1918-19, Canada's total external trade reached \$2,548,713,538, as compared with \$1,073,894,368 for 1913-14. The exports which in 1913-14 were \$431,588,439 in 1918-19 were \$1,540,027,778.

In the first year of the struggle the Department was charged with the despatching of 1,000,000 bags of flour, the gift of the people of Canada to the British Government. It also despatched a gift of produce from the Ontario farmers. Early in March 1915, 35,000 bags of flour were sent to South Africa. Among other matters was the placing of orders in Canada for 458,000 blankets for the French Government, and orders for 600,000 undershirts and 100,000 blankets for the Italian Government. In the autumn of 1915, 13,621,000 bushels of wheat were commandeered for the Allies. When in 1917 Australia and New Zealand placed an embargo on shipments of wool to Canada, the Department through its own channels, arranged for a supply for Canadian manufacturers, and thus kept the woolen mills going. Arrangements were also made with the British Government for adequate supplies of necessary materials for various essential industries which had to be imported. The United States having placed in Canada orders for millions of dollars worth of war supplies, the Department controlled these exports in order to make sure that they were for the definite purpose of supplying the military edmands of the United States. In 1917 arrangements were also made with the War Trade Board of the