

siderably in excess of that figure. A great organization has been created and the business has, as I believe, been conducted with very great efficiency. The grateful thanks of this country are due to the three gentlemen who, without any remuneration and purely as a duty of public service, have devoted their time and their energies for almost two years, to carrying on the work of that commission.

Another subject has engaged the attention of the Government. Two years ago we took up with the Admiralty the very important question of transportation. We all remember how great the difficulties were at the time. It seemed to me that the best course would be to despatch a gentleman of great experience in these matters to Great Britain and endeavour to have him come to arrangements with the Admiralty by which the problem of transportation might be dealt with in a systematic and effective way. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company, a corporation which has rendered great service to the Government of the United Kingdom as well as to this Government in matters connected with the war, freely and voluntarily placed at the disposal of the Government the services of Mr. A. H. Harris. Without effective organization of some kind, matters were bound to get into the most extreme confusion. There was the question of transporting supplies and munitions for the British Government, as well as for the Allied Governments, and connected with all this was the question of transporting the general products of the country which were to find a market on the other side of the ocean. The organization was begun in a very small way—I think with ten or twelve ships in the first instance. That was two years ago; the organization now includes seventy-five ocean steamers under the able and efficient direction of Mr. A. H. Harris as Canadian director of overseas transports. The organization handles 2,250,000 tons per year and the traffic is constantly increasing. The organization is carried on under a committee of the Privy Council over which the Minister of Naval Service presides.

I know that hon. gentlemen of this House will realize that very unusual responsibilities and burdens have been imposed upon the Minister of Finance and his officers during this war. He will no doubt, at a later date, speak more fully on that subject than it would be possible for me to do tonight. For two years he has maintained the finances of Canada without resorting to the British market, which has thus been left

free to sustain the burdens imposed by the enormous British war expenditure and the requirements of the Allies. I do not believe that any one of us would have believed two and a half years ago that it would be possible for Canada to accomplish the task which has been accomplished under the direction of the Minister of Finance in that respect. The two loans placed in Canada have attained an unprecedented success, the one for \$50,000,000 bringing out \$110,000,000, and the further loan of \$100,000,000 being more than doubly subscribed. Not only has the minister been enabled to leave the British market free for the enormous requirements of the British and the Allied Governments, but he has out of the loans which he has effected in Canada put no less than \$150,000,000 at the disposal of the British Government for the purpose of paying for the munitions produced in this country. As I have said, that effort will be continued by him in the future.

Hon. gentlemen of the House will remember that at the commencement of this war we were faced with very grave conditions indeed in Canada.

I do not think that those of my colleagues who were in Ottawa on the first, second and third days of August, 1914, will ever forget the tremendous importance of the problems with which we were faced and the very great responsibilities which we had to assume at that time.

The people of Canada were beginning to think of drawing their money out of the banks in gold. We were threatened with a condition that might have produced a panic which would have paralysed the energies of Canada in this war. Without any legal power, without any legal sanction to do it, we were obliged to take measures which were afterwards ratified by Parliament. We were obliged to prevent the exportation and hoarding of gold. We were obliged to make bank notes good legal tender. We were obliged to provide that Dominion notes need not be redeemed in gold. These measures were accepted unhesitatingly by the country. No one except those who underwent the responsibilities of that time can properly estimate what might have been the loss to this country if those measures had not been taken.

Then we were faced almost immediately afterwards with another very serious problem. I would like the House and the country to realize for a moment what the conditions were at that time. The revenues of this country had shrunk—I do not know by what percentage—but they had shrunk