

and to do whatever is possible to promote it in the future.

What was our trade with Germany? In 1896 that trade, total imports and exports, was \$7,212,000; and in 1914, the year before the war, it was \$19,119,000. I do not know that many people in Canada, that many people in the Empire, will be willing to develop trade relations with Germany after the war, and if we can transfer our orders from Germany to France, we will only be doing a patriotic duty. I was rather painfully surprised last year, when the first war loan of France was launched, that this loan was not better appreciated by our banking institutions in Canada. There is an old saying in Europe that was applied to France before the war, and I suppose will be applied to her after the war: France is the creditor of all nations, and is the debtor of none. My hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce, who is versed in finance and who knows the credit of all European countries, is aware that this is true. Every country in Europe was more or less a vassal to France, from a financial point of view, and if there is anything to be regretted it is that France was far too free and to generous in her foreign investments. Yes, I was surprised that when France offered some of her coupons on her national loan to the banking institutions in Canada, the response was not very generous. Perhaps there were reasons for that. The Government and the banking institutions had probably in mind that we would have our own domestic loans, and that we had to provide in some way for the needs of the British exchequer. At all events, I express this regret, and I wish to state most explicitly that there is no nation in the world, with the exception perhaps of Great Britain, which stands higher than France in regard to national credit. You may ask me, and the Minister of Trade and Commerce may ask me, what Canada could buy from France. I would simply mention a few articles that Canada could buy from France instead of buying them from Germany as we have been doing in the past, such as wines, drugs, chemicals, scientific instruments, and above all, *l'article de luxe*, what is commonly called *l'article de Paris*, which has been insidiously replaced in many markets of the world by the shoddy goods of Germany with the false labelling "*article de Paris*." Our importers and their agents should see to it that the commercial world is not humbugged, as it has

been in the past, with the shoddy goods of Germany falsely labelled "*article de Paris*." But what is now important for Canada is to know what she can sell to France. The list which I am about to read I take from a French review dealing especially with this question of our better trade relations with France. Although it has been often said that there is no sentiment in business there is already in France a very pronounced movement in favour of the expansion of commercial relations with the Allies, and particularly with Canada.

The desire, as much as the necessity, after the war, to substitute for the Austro-German trade direct commercial relations with the Allies, either by the creation of preferential tariffs, by the signature of commercial treaties, or by the direct action of commercial leagues having for their special object the severance of all trade relations with Germany, will contribute in a great measure to the aforesaid expansion, which, as regards Canada, will be here the more pronounced that we can furnish and manufacture an immense quantity of the items which were formerly bought in Germany.

In the review which I hold in my hand, it is shown that during the year before the war broke out France got from Germany manufactured goods and raw products, to the value of \$250,000,000. Now, Sir, France will require from Canada, and is ready to receive from Canada these raw products and manufactured articles: Wood pulp, horses, live stock, frozen meat and fish, cheese, flour, hay, leather, saddlery, shoes, asbestos, steel, building material and rolling stock for railways and all sorts of tools and implements which, during the war, have been exported from Canada to France will certainly continue to be exported, and to the aforesaid articles must be added the goods which France used to buy from Germany and which she now knows she can have in Canada. As I have stated, the exports from Germany into France amounted to \$250,000,000 per year before the war, and there is no reason why a large proportion of that trade should not henceforth be given to Canada. In addition to the above products and articles, the following items may now readily find a market in France: Agricultural implements, steam excavators, dredges, road ploughs and horses, concrete laying machines, steam rollers, etc; railway material and rolling stock, spare parts for locomotives, straight and bent axletrees, steel in bars, locomotive tires, cars and vans; locomotive fire grates,