

the Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance (Mr. Rhodes) knows, but I think I would be within the mark if I guessed somewhere between \$125,000,000 and \$140,000,000; this as compared with the \$83,000,000 for last year.

| | 1929 | 1930 | 1931 |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Imports.. | 969,663,000 | 729,869,000 | 451,355,000 |
| Exports— | | | |
| Canadian.. | 890,466,000 | 656,204,000 | 461,797,000 |
| Foreign.. | 19,261,000 | 14,046,000 | 8,667,000 |
| Total trade.. | 1,879,390,000 | 1,400,119,000 | 921,819,000 |

As compared with 1930, the decline for the fiscal year to December 31, 1931, is:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| In imports.. | \$278,514,000 |
| In exports— | |
| Canadian.. | 194,407,000 |
| Foreign.. | 5,379,000 |
| In total trade.. | \$478,300,000 |

| | Dec. 1929 | Dec. 1930 | Dec. 1931 |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Imports.. | \$84,365,000 | \$60,338,000 | \$40,289,000 |
| Exports— | | | |
| Canadian.. | 88,520,000 | 66,819,000 | 53,255,000 |
| Foreign.. | 1,958,000 | 1,233,000 | 962,000 |
| Total trade.. | \$174,842,000 | \$128,390,000 | \$94,506,000 |

Under these circumstances how can it be said that conditions are improving?

Let us next consider the matter of trade. In this connection I will give the figures for 1929, 1930 and 1931. They are as follows:

As compared with 1929, the decline is even more staggering. Let us take the trade of just the month of December in 1929, 1930 and 1931, to see whether conditions are improving. The figures are as follows:

My right hon. friend says that conditions are improving. Let us take employment. What is the position with regard to employment? At the beginning of January, 1932, it showed a distinctly pronounced decline. The Bureau of Statistics have tabulated returns from 7,832 firms showing the following decline in their pay-rolls:

| | Persons |
|----------------------------|---------|
| December 1, 1931.. | 904,492 |
| January 1, 1932.. | 835,960 |

That is a decrease of 68,532, or 7.6 per cent, in the period between December 1 and January 1, although my right hon. friend says that conditions are improving.

Let us take employment during the last months of the Liberal administration. The index figures for all industries are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| January 1, 1930.. | 111.2 |
| August 1, 1930.. | 118.8 |

What was the Conservative record?

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| January 1, 1931.. | 101.7 |
| January 1, 1932.. | 91.6 |

The ironical feature of the whole thing is that the greatest losses occurred in manufacturing, the index being lower than in any other year since 1925. The figures are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| August 1, 1930.. | 101.2 |
|--------------------------|-------|

That is while the Liberals were still in power.

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| January 1, 1931.. | 93.7 |
| December 1, 1931.. | 89.6 |
| January, 1, 1932.. | 83.9 |

The most extensive reductions were in the manufacturing of iron and steel and textiles. Yet my right hon. friend says in the speech from the throne that the measures which the government had passed are proving effective and conditions are improving. Let me read what my right hon. friend said in the house on September 10, 1930, at the time of the special session. He was then speaking of the measures which he was going to introduce and which were going to improve conditions. As reported on page 64 of Hansard of that date, he said:

It will be observed that the present number—

Speaking of unemployment.

—is something over 117,000 and it is believed that that number will approximate 177,000 during the winter. If the measures which we submit to the house are productive of the good which we anticipate, we hope that that number will steadily decrease rather than increase, and that the maximum anticipated number of 177,000 will not be reached.

A very short time ago the former Minister of Labour, Senator Robertson, gave a statement with regard to the number of unemployed. My right hon. friend said: We think the numbers are going to decrease from 177,000. What was the report that Senator Robertson made about September 5 of last year? He said: At the present time there are 530,000 without jobs. It should be mentioned that of that number possibly 150,000 would include agriculturists in the west, but