

responding four months of 1906, our trade has increased \$31,396,307.

I might further point out that this enormous trade seems to be developing continuously and along every line. It must be very satisfactory to the people of Canada to feel that the impulsive flow of Canadian trade ne'er feels returning ebb, but holds on its course in a swelling tide. One may naturally ask what are the causes of this enormous growth. Well, Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons is that we have rich and fertile lands which attract immigration from all parts of the world. The illimitable resources of Canada attract foreign capital from abroad. We have also sound banking institutions and sound financial institutions which still further tend to increase the financial strength and credit of our country. We also enjoy stability in government. But what are some of the other causes of this enormous growth? This growth is certainly due in a very marked degree to the wise and prudent administration of this government. To that administration must be largely attributed the successful development of our resources, the rapid peopling of our Northwest, the increasing of our transportation facilities, the improvements of our canals and harbours, the deepening of our waterways, the improvement of the St. Lawrence ship channel, the improvement in transportation of perishable goods, the improvement of our terminal facilities and our ocean steamship service, the establishment of a trade commissioners' service outside of Canada on a broad business-like basis. These are some of the causes set in motion by this government which have resulted in this great expansion of trade.

It must also be a cause of pride and satisfaction to our people to know that this wonderful advancement in our trade has been brought about without in any way increasing our national debt. In 1896 the national debt of Canada amounted to \$258,497,432. Down to March 31, 1907, it amounted to \$263,671,859, being an increase of but little over \$5,000,000 since 1896. During the previous eighteen years our trade increased only some \$66,000,000, but our national debt increased during that period \$118,000,000. Just compare the two. During the last eleven years under the present government our increase in trade amounts to \$378,000,000 and the increase in our national debt is but \$5,000,000. Had the same proportion continued between the increase in trade and the increase in the national debt in the last eleven years as during the previous eighteen years, our national debt would have increased upwards of \$600,000,000.

It is another matter of pride and satisfaction to know that our debt per head, which in 1896 was \$50.71, is to-day only \$40 per head. It is quite true that in the working out of this wonderful expansive policy our annual expenditure has increased, but it is satisfactory to know that our revenue has likewise increased. The money

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spent during the eighteen years of the late Conservative government produced indifferent results, but the money spent during the last eleven years has produced most excellent returns.

Notwithstanding the fact that we have embarked upon the construction of a national transcontinental railway and have spent large sums during the past nine months on capital account on the improvement of our public works and canals, even to the extent of over \$14,000,000, our public accounts show a surplus, notwithstanding all this expenditure on capital account, of \$3,300,000 to apply on the national debt. Therefore, so far as the financial position of Canada is concerned, I do not think any one can seriously find any fault with it. I have said that this great growth of Canada's trade has largely been brought about by the judicious expenditure of public money. Let me give an illustration to show how money can be judiciously expended and our annual expenditure increased with the result that Canada will reap considerable profit from the investment.

Take for instance, our trade with Mexico. In 1896 our total trade with Mexico was \$37,876; and in 1907 it was \$1,137,784. This great increase in our trade with Mexico has been brought about largely by the establishment, on July 21, 1905, of a steamship service on the Atlantic between Canada and Mexico. I notice that on May 1, 1907, a steamship service with Mexico was established on the Pacific also. In 1905, our total trade with Mexico was \$174,593, and in 1907, as I have already stated, it was \$1,137,784, or over six times as great as it was only two years ago. The establishment of steamship service is but one of many illustrations that might be given of how wise expenditures made by this government contributes toward the growth of Canada.

Another illustration that might be given of the remarkable growth of Canada is seen in the results of the excellent work done by the Department of Agriculture in improving our transportation facilities and in other ways. In 1906, we sent cheese to Great Britain to the amount of \$14,000,000 but in 1907 our exports of cheese to Great Britain amounted to \$25,000,000, an increase of almost 100 per cent. One fact that shows very clearly the proud position that Canada occupies in the British market is that our export of cheese to that market amounts to nearly three times as much as that of Holland and the United States combined. There is no doubt that the application of the principle of cold storage to our railways, our terminal facilities and our steamship lines has enabled Canada to send to Great Britain immense quantities of butter, fruit, and other kinds of perishable goods. The Department of Agriculture seems to have proceeded in its work upon the confident belief that if we preserve our perishable goods efficiently and transport them cheaply, in-