

Supplying of Munitions.

Few things, except the actual fighting at the front, recruiting, and the financing of the war, have interested us more than the supplying of munitions, and especially Canada's share in that vitally important work. In a general way we know that we have done more than was expected, and have done it better and more quickly, but just how much we have done is not known to the general public. I am glad to be able to give a few facts which will at least help us to a better understanding of the matter. The Imperial Munitions Board have given orders in Canada for 22,800,000 shells, having a value of \$282,000,000. If we add to this the orders for cartridge cases, primers, forgings, friction tubes, etc., a total of \$303,000,000 is reached. For this work there had been paid out by the end of the year about \$80,000,000, and the monthly output is now valued at more than \$30,000,000. There are 422 plants working directly on these orders, and how much employment is indirectly due to them is beyond our skill even to suggest. The work of the War Purchasing Commission is not so easy to sum up. This body does not deal with shells but it deals with almost every other requirement of the army and purchases about five thousand different kinds of articles. As the appropriation for the year just past amounted to \$100,000,000, we can form some idea of the importance of its operations, although there are no figures available to show how this has been spent. The pay of officers and men, the cost of all engineering operations and other large items, coming under the direction of the Department of Militia and Defence, are met out of this appropriation. It is estimated that about one million pairs of boots have been purchased at a cost of more than \$3,500,000. Our woolen and knitting industries have received large orders, larger even than they could conveniently execute within the specified time. Up to the present all the cloth used for our soldiers' uniforms has been made in Canadian mills, but it is not clear that our mills can continue to fill all our requirements. From figures gathered from various sources we estimate that the value of the clothing ordered for the use of the Canadian troops since the creation of the Commission in May has been from \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000, while orders from Great Britain and the cost of clothing the earlier contingents should make the total at least \$20,000,000. The British orders in Toronto at the moment amount to nearly \$1,000,000. The demand for articles made of leather has been very extensive, and while most of the leather used is tanned in Canada, our trade reports record the importation of considerable quantities of hides and leather. Socks have been ordered by the million pair at a time, and our mills are far behind in their deliveries. I cannot more than refer to such items as rifles and small ammunition, telephone equipment, tools, rubber articles, camp, barrack and hospital equipment, etc., but perhaps what I have said will help us to understand that the purchases for the Canadian army at the moment are almost as great as those required for the army equipment of Great Britain in times of peace. We have during the year sold in Great Britain canned corn beef to the value of about \$3,300,000, frozen beef about \$6,000,000, and bacon about \$9,000,000. The bacon would have been sold in the British market in any event, but the canned and frozen beef represents new trade. We cannot ascertain the number of horses or live cattle sold (the latter mainly to France) for army purposes, nor can we estimate the value of the shipments of wheat, flour, oats, hay, etc., attributable to the war, or of the orders for munitions from France and Russia which have been placed in Canada, but if outstanding contracts are filled and the war continues throughout 1916 it seems clear that during 1915 and 1916 there will have been spent in Canada for war supplies considerably more than \$500,000,000. You may be interested to know something regarding the Bank's part in this work. We have as customers 22 of the largest shell makers, 20 makers of clothing and of leather goods, eight of the largest suppliers of provisions, besides many who supply other classes of munitions. Including the farmers, the number and variety of people among our customers who benefit by the supplying of munitions is beyond calculation. We have learned in meeting the sudden demand upon our industrial capacity to do many things which should count in our future. We have learned to shift our machinery rapidly to new uses, to make objects of a more complicated character which allow less margin for bad workmanship, to smelt copper, lead and zinc; indeed, to do many things which before the war did not seem possible in the present stage of our development.

Ready for the Future.

In a new country like Canada it is as natural to try and forecast the future as it is to breathe. Without such a form of enjoyment life would often be unbearable. Every day, however, since the war began has shown us how unable we are, with our previous narrow experience, to look ahead even for a month. We are living amid events so tremendous that it is our duty to be steadfast and ready for any new turn in the kaleidoscope of fate and not to waste time in guesses regarding peace and the aftermath of the war; still, there are some important questions which press upon our minds whenever the strain of the war lessens for a moment. When the war ends and orders for munitions cease, throwing many out of employment, when the Canadian soldiers begin to come home, and the discharged soldiers of the Allies follow them to this land of opportunity, with many others who wish to forget the horrors of Europe, how shall we find ourselves prepared for them? We shall probably have been enriched in some respects by the war, and the demands upon our industries are likely to increase, although not to an extent which will absorb their full output for some time to come. In any event, we shall probably not be so much engaged in building for the future as endeavoring to turn our products which will justify what we have already done. We shall therefore hope that our soldiers and our immigrants will turn to the land far more generally than have the immigrants of the last ten years. As Canada is the last great area with unploughed land in the temperate zone and under a democratic government, and as the returning soldiers will as a rule wish for outdoor work, we may hope that they will very generally become farmers. If so, should we not, despite the overwork incidental to the war, be preparing for a great settlement on the land?

Immigration.

We have learned a lesson from indiscriminate immigration; we know what it means to have citizens who are not yet Canadians in their sense of loyalty to the Empire, and if we are wise we shall base our estimate of the value of each new arrival upon larger considerations than that of mere material prosperity. Can we plant in many centres, and in every province in Canada, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, soldier-farmers who will themselves be centres of loyalty and whose grandchildren will boast that they were sired by men who fought in the great war for liberty? If we can, we shall have done much to assure the safety of Canada and its institutions, and we shall thus make this country far better worth while than if we miss this golden opportunity. To succeed, however, we must organize so as to secure the land at fair prices; we must lend the necessary money on such terms that its return will be effected by a reasonable rent charge; we must continue to lend for later improvements in the same manner, and finally, so long as the soldier-farmer shows that he is making good, we must back him somewhat better than the man who has not fought for us. Only the government can do these things, but I am sure that it can be done so as to help merely those who deserve to be helped, so as to ensure success in the majority of cases, and so as to pay in some slight degree our debt to those without whose courage all that we and our forbears have done to make Canada a nation would be as naught.

The Report was then adopted unanimously. After amending the by-laws so as to reduce the number of Directors to 19, the Shareholders re-elected the retiring Auditors and passed the usual vote of thanks to the Directors and Staff of the Bank. Upon motion the meeting proceeded to the election of Directors for the coming year and then adjourned.

The Scrutineers subsequently announced the following gentlemen to be elected as Directors for the coming year: Sir Edmund Walker, C.V.O., LL.D., D.C.L., John Hoskin, K.C., LL.D., D.C.L., J. W. Flavell, LL.D., A. Kingman, Hon. Sir Lyman Melvin Jones, Hon. W. C. Edwards, Z. A. Lash, K.C., LL.D., E. R. Wood, Sir John M. Gibson, K.C.M.G., K.C., LL.D., Robert Stuart, George F. Galt, A. C. Flumerfelt, William Farwell, D.C.L., George G. Foster, K.C., Charles Colby, M.A., Ph.D., George W. Allan, K.C., H. J. Fuller, F. P. Jones and H. C. Cox.

At a meeting of the newly-elected Board of Directors, held subsequently, Sir Edmund Walker, C.V.O., LL.D., D.C.L., was elected President and Mr. Z. A. Lash, K.C., LL.D., Vice-President.