

He has got to step on this thing. The people of Canada look to him to protect the treasury; if he does not do it they will not give him the money. This charge of extravagance is in the mouth of everybody.

I will give the house just one other illustration. Potatoes come to the camps in 90-pound bags. The bags in which they are packed cost and are worth five cents each. For a long time those bags were not reclaimed; they were thrown out and afterwards picked up by the kitchen help, and a dealer came around and obtained them in return for a few cigarettes, and took them away and probably sold them to those who were supplying the government. That sort of thing went on for quite a long time. I believe that now it has been corrected. I mention it merely to illustrate the fact that apparently nobody is charged with the responsibility of looking after little things and that there is terrible waste. All war, of course, is waste. But here is one reason why this loan did not go over; people see every day instances of extravagance.

I am not going to dilate on the fact that there is a feeling that this is a Liberal war. It is true that in some quarters there are people who say, "All right, you are running this war, you can pay for it." That is not a good enough excuse. Neither is that excuse good enough which I heard from a man—I am not going to tell you where or when—who said that he would not subscribe to the war loan because the rate of interest was not high enough. I have no sympathy at all with that kind of person. This is Canada's major or premier security, and I want to say to the minister that in my opinion the rate of interest is adequate, and he should be able to get under present conditions the money which we know is available, because there is more than a billion and a half dollars in the savings banks of this country. Moreover, the money which the government is spending is trickling back to individuals and companies who will invest more. The money is there if you can get it, but you must get it by proper means, and you must induce people to give upon proper premises.

The plain truth is that the treasury must step in and put a brake on foolish and extravagant expenditures. I once told this house, I think it was in a budget debate, that I believed the people of Canada would give the government the money with which

to carry on this war, but they will hold the government to a strict accounting; they want to know how and where the money is going.

I had intended to call the attention of the Minister of Finance and of the government to the question of empire and Canadian trade balances with the United States. This is a matter which should give this government and this country some cause for consideration. It is of grave concern how we are going to protect and maintain our exchange position on anything like an equitable basis. It we are to do so, drastic steps will have to be taken by way of further restrictions on imports or we shall have to sell more to the United States.

I need not refer to the Montreal terminals—that shocking thing which the minister put over last session to pay an election debt—the steel for which, I am told, was all imported from the United States. The first problem, that is to say the protection and maintenance of our exchange position, is wholly within our own jurisdiction. But the matter of selling more to the United States depends on the generosity, perhaps on the business foresight, of our great neighbour to the south.

What is the position? I have grouped a set of figures which I do not wish to take the time to read but which are obtained from the October letter of the National City bank. They refer to commodities only; they do not relate to invisible balances or, I believe, to exports of gold. I am going to ask leave to have these figures printed in *Hansard*; otherwise I shall have to take the time of the house to read them. They show substantial adverse balances, as between the empire and the United States, for the three years ended August 31st last, totalling \$1,624,000,000, or over a billion and a half dollars.

From the same source I have the figures with respect to Canadian trade with the United States in the same period. They show an adverse balance in respect of commodities only of \$569,000,000. The comparative figures are all taken from records published by the National City bank, and I should like to ask the privilege of putting them on *Hansard* so that they may be available to hon. members.

Mr. SPEAKER: With unanimous consent.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The table follows: