

and through agreements we have been successful in increasing Canadian exports. To this end, agreements have been entered into with empire countries, treaties have been made with foreign nations, and there is not the least doubt that, so far as Canada is concerned, the recovery commenced with the family agreement entered into at the imperial conference in 1932.

Although we completed just a few months ago the first year under these agreements, a wonderful development has taken place in empire trade. The first nine months of the present fiscal year saw our exports to empire countries increased by 18 per cent, while our imports advanced 13 per cent. There were 22 empire countries to which increased exports went and 17 from which increased imports came. In the nine months we increased exports to the United Kingdom by \$26,000,000 and increased imports from Great Britain by \$11,000,000.

We all remember quite well the opposition to these agreements. I believe the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) even went so far as to say that if his party were returned to power they would not consider the agreements binding. But one argument which has been used in this house has been repeated throughout the whole country, namely, that by entering into these agreements we were putting an iron band around the nation and that we would not be in a position to enter into agreements or to do business with foreign countries. That contention was exploded very shortly after the passing of the treaty, in the case of Great Britain.

I would point out that during the first nine months of the present fiscal year our exports to foreign countries increased by 12 per cent while our imports from these countries decreased by 7 per cent. We increased exports to 51 foreign countries, and from 41 foreign countries increased imports came. We made a new treaty with France and renewed the agreements with Germany and Austria. As a result of the new treaty with France we increased exports to that country by 50 per cent in a period of five months. We sold to Germany 5½ per cent more; to Italy 3 per cent more; to the Netherlands 16 per cent more; to Colombia 7 per cent more; to Peru 3 per cent more, and to Mexico 16 per cent more. We even sold to the United States 22 per cent more of agricultural products than we did the year before.

In the extension of trade, in the widening of markets, the record of this government over a period of two years will compare quite

[Mr. Barber.]

favourably with that of the previous government over a period of eight years. Under the most trying conditions, Canada once more has stepped forward into fifth place among the exporting nations of the world—a record which, I think, Canada might well be proud of. At the same time the government has directed its efforts successfully to restoring equilibrium between sales and purchases. Indeed, not only has equilibrium been restored, but we have done a little better, so that an unfavourable trade balance of \$110,000,000 in 1930 has been turned into a favourable balance of \$134,000,000, or a betterment of \$244,000,000, which has meant a great deal to us in discharging our international obligations.

I wish now to direct the attention of the house to the increased trade that has resulted from empire agreements, as reflected in British Columbia. It is particularly noticeable in the all-year-round ports of that province. I say all-year-round ports, and I should like some hon. gentlemen from eastern Canada to appreciate the fact that to-day pleasure yachts, coastal steamers and great liners are passing in and out of the ports on the Pacific coast. In the great fresh water port of New Westminster, according to the figures compiled by the secretary of the harbour board, nearly every commodity passing over Fraser river docks has been handled in greater quantity than during the previous year. Deep sea ships calling at that port increased from 311 to 409; lumber exports went up 30 per cent, over 216,000,000 feet; bar metal exports increased nearly 60 per cent; exports of wheat, from less than 200,000 bushels in 1932, increased to over 1,500,000 bushels in 1933.

Then we come to Vancouver, the greatest shipping port on the Pacific. The harbour commission reports show that in spite of a great drop in the export of grain there was an increase in the export of almost every other commodity. You will see the colours of half a dozen nations in this harbour in one day. You will find British ships loading for Britain and Australia, the orient and the continent, ships flying the Rising Sun of Japan, stowing logs, grain and scrap iron for the far east. There will be seen a Danish vessel taking on wheat, apples, lead and fish for Holland and Germany; the Cross of Norway flying from a ship laden with wheat, pulp and tallow for France and Britain; Dutch and American vessels loading zinc, flour and salmon. You will find there the tricolour of France, Hitler's swastika, the