

did secure, by the efforts I made during the past summer, and by the correspondence which has taken place from time to time, the release of several ships for that service. I pressed upon the Admiralty the consideration that a larger proportion of steamships had been taken from the North Atlantic service than from any other service. This was for the reason that the ships plying in the North Atlantic were better adapted to the purposes of the Admiralty. So, we have done the best we could in this way; and the Government have taken some further steps through my colleague the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir George Foster) as to which he will give the House information at a later date. The whole situation, of course, is subject to the paramount necessities of the War Office and the Admiralty. If we are going to carry on this war successfully it is necessary that large bodies of troops should be transported and that they should have ample supplies of every kind. Thus in all representations made by Canada we had to bear in mind those paramount considerations without regard to which the war could not be brought to a successful conclusion. Transportation on the Pacific was also discussed and I hope that some progress has been made.

I took up also with the British Government the purchase of horses and the establishment of Canadian remount depots in England. As to this we arrived at the conclusion, after a careful discussion of the whole subject, that it would be a waste of money for the Canadian Government to establish remount depots in the United Kingdom, or in France. Therefore we are availing ourselves of the British remount depots which are thoroughly well organized. But we went a step further upon the suggestion of my hon. friend the Minister of Militia and Defence (Sir Sam Hughes). He said that he saw no reason why the British Remount Commission here should not purchase all horses required for the allied forces in western theatre of the war, including the Canadian forces. Therefore, we arranged that the British Remount Commission should make purchases of all horses required for the Canadian forces and issue them as required at the net cost.

We also took up with the British Remount Department the purchase of horses in Canada by the French Government; and after considerable discussion and some correspondence, the British

[Sir Robert Borden.]

authorities finally consented that the arrangement which had prevented the French Government from purchasing in Canada should be terminated, and accordingly since the month of August last the French Government has been at perfect liberty to buy in Canada; and I hope that they will take steps to make purchases in this country, particularly in the West, where I believe there is a type of horse which would very well suit the requirements of the French Government.

There are other matters, but at the moment I need say no more as to the arrangements arrived at between the Government of Canada and that of Great Britain during the visit of the hon. the Minister of Militia (Sir Sam Hughes) and myself.

It is my privilege and my duty to speak of the spirit which I found in France and in Great Britain. The spirit of France is grave, patient, self-reliant, confident and determined. No great nation animated by such a spirit can be overthrown. The whole manhood of that nation is in arms; each man is doing his allotted task regardless of social condition, wealth, birth, or any other consideration. To give the House an illustration of what this war means to the French people and how each man is doing the duty which is allotted to him, the military chauffeur placed at the disposal of the Officier de Liaison at the headquarters of General Joffre was no less a person than the son of the French Ambassador at one of the great capitals of Europe. This young man did duty there as chauffeur, performing his allotted task to the best of his ability and as a matter of duty.

Wherever the Germans have passed in France is found ruin and desolation. I saw the town of Albert, not one single building of which from one end to the other was left with a roof on it—a perfect picture of desolation. I saw Senlis, only about seven miles from Chantilly, desolate, almost completely destroyed. Hon. members will recall the fact that when the Germans passed through Senlis, more than a year ago, they executed the mayor and, I believe, seventeen of the citizens because they had been fired upon by some Turcos as they entered the town. I saw also the ruins of Creil, which is in the immediate vicinity of Chantilly.

We do not realize in this country what war means; no man can realize what it means until he has witnessed the picture of ruin and desolation which can be seen in