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BIG INCREASE IN CANADA'S TRADE.

Ottawa, April. — An increase of \$315,292,044 in the trade of Canada during the fiscal year ending on March 31st last is shown by the monthly statement issued through the Customs Department. The statement shows that at the end of the last fiscal year the grand total of Canadian exports and imports was \$2,564,462,215, as against \$2,249,170,171 at the end of 1917. Domestic merchandise exported from Canada last year totalled \$1,540,027,788, while the imports during the same period were \$962,521,847. Foreign merchandise was exported to the total of \$46,142,004.

Dutiable goods to the amount of \$542,319,623 were imported into Canada during the year just ended, and free goods to the amount of \$420,202,224. Duty collected during the year totalled \$161,588,465, as compared with \$147,623,230 in 1917. The imports of coin and bullion during 1918 were \$12,279,173, against \$28,081,120 in the previous year.

Exports Show Decrease.

Although the total trade of the Dominion shows a marked increase in the year, the statement shows that there was a falling off in exports and imports in the month of March, as compared with a year ago. In March, 1917, the total trade was \$230,722,774, while during the past month it amounted to only \$191,737,332. Of this total, \$87,255,698 represented merchandise entered for consumption in Canada, and the exports totalled \$99,854,987.

Products of Canadian factories to the total of \$636,602,516 were exported during the past fiscal year, as compared with \$477,399,676 in 1917. Exports of domestic agricultural products reached a total of \$567,713,584, and animal products exported amounted to \$172,743,081. Products of Canadian forests were sent out of the country to the amount of \$51,899,704, and Canadian minerals exported totalled \$73,760,502.

THE GENERAL FINANCIAL SITUATION.

(Continued from Front Page)

in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York increased \$26,500,000. Official discount rates of the federal reserve banks remain practically unchanged.

As had been expected, this the closing week of the Liberty Loan flotation campaign saw a considerably accelerated flow of subscriptions, and it

is now evident that the loan will be oversubscribed. It is well to remember that this third war loan of our neighbors had certain difficulties to contend with. In the first place the bonds are not convertible into future Government issues. Next, as mentioned above, increased taxation impaired the subscription-capacity of many corporations and wealthy individuals; and finally the rate of interest, at $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., was a shade lower than the investment world had expected—perhaps this rate was a trifle lower than market conditions warranted. Under the circumstances the excellent response constitutes another evidence of the earnestness of purpose of our great American Ally.

The Canadian Northern Railway has just issued a report on crop conditions in the prairie provinces which will encourage the financial and business interests. The report is based on information sent in from 235 points. These reports emphasized the good condition of the soil up to April 17th and the great activity in seeding. In nearly all districts there will be substantial increase of the wheat acreage—the increases ranging from 10 per cent. to above 25 per cent. New breaking along the C. N. R. lines is estimated at from 750,000 to 1,000,000 acres.

WAR FINANCES IN ENGLAND.

Stubborn hopefulness prevails in England with determination quite unshaken, and unanimous to make any sacrifices which will insure victory. The value of the United States financial assistance and moral support are heartily appreciated. Government expenditure budgetted for the new fiscal year will be about £3,000,000,000 or more than three times what it was before the war. If the increased revenue reaches £900,000,000 as it is likely to do the proportion of expenditure paid from taxes will be roughly 30 per cent. and the proportion raised from loans 70 per cent.

England has already raised more than £1,000,000,000 from new taxation since the war began as against £365,000,000 raised by Germany. The German debt is now £8,000,000,000 and the deficit in the German balance sheet unprovided for by taxation or funded loans is about £350,000,000, whereas England's budget would show a substantial surplus, with the possibility of remission of taxation after the war.

The fact of Germany's desperate position is bound to intensify her useless struggle to avoid defeat. But adds to the critical character of the situation during the next few months, and is a consideration which cannot be overlooked.

BOND ISSUES IN CANADA.

The total of bond issues made in Canada for the first quarter of the current year. Amounted to \$15,333,000 compared with \$5,717,000 in 1917 \$10,034,000 for the same period in 1916, and \$20,758,000 in 1915. Canada in the first quarter of 1918 accomplished, \$97.98 of her financing in her own territory, and only went to New York for 2.02 per cent.

Bond issues in the Dominion are only permitted with the express consent of the Minister of Finance.