

Effect of War Orders on Dominion Trade

The Journal of Commerce, Montreal, Expresses the Effect of British War Office Orders on General Trade. While the comment is Restricted to the Montreal District, the Situation Holds Good for Practically all Industrial Centres in the Dominion.

There is little doubt but that Canadian industry is at present receiving the greatest boost it has ever had in the history of the Dominion. This general improvement is not concentrated to one lone industry or confined to one particular district, but is distributed all over the country, and touches almost every branch of Canadian endeavor including woollens, textiles, rubber, leather, canning, hardware, livestock, horses, grains and a great many others.

To begin with, the "Made in Canada" campaign has done much to concentrate the flow of currency in the Dominion and has brought the consumer to realize that by watching Canadian advertising more closely, he can readily purchase a Canadian-made article in place of the foreign product which he, in former years was wont to use? This, in itself, a tremendous undertaking, has meant a great deal for Canadian industry. Large business houses who take the trouble to place the "Made in Canada" stamp on every article which they turn out are finding that repeats are coming forward when the article is satisfactory.

Another thing which has done a whole lot to keep money flowing and artisans employed is the orders which the British Imperial Government have been placing in Canada through their agents, Mr. Fred W. Stobart for general army supplies, and Col. Sir Frederick Benson for remounts, as well as supplies which have been ordered through the Department of Trade and Commerce and the Militia Department, the latter principally for the outfitting of the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Forces.

Textile and woollen mills throughout the country are being severely pressed and the great majority of them are working to highest capacity. Some mills report that their pay-rolls have been increased since the outbreak of war. This is all over and above what the general public are wont to believe. The Monarch Knitting Company, Dunnville, say that they have received Government orders from both Canada and Britain, but these are considered of only temporary assistance. They state, however, that business from ordinary channels is keeping the mills running to the full. The Kingston Hosiery Company report that their factory is running until 9 p. m. every night on war orders, and they will be for two months at least. Walter Blue & Company say that they have sufficient orders on hand to keep their factories running at full time as well as giving employment to additional help.

The above are simply statements of fact, unpadding and for the most part unsolicited. They reflect just what is happening in the textile industry of Canada. Without exception, they are optimistic in the extreme and go to show that conditions in this great Dominion are not nearly as black as some alarmists would paint them—in fact, conditions in that particular industry are better than they have been for a long time past. It is seldom that all mills of any size whatever are working to capacity despite the fact that spring orders are under way about this time each year.

Another industry which has received impetus is boots and shoes. The following are some of the reports to hand: The Regal Shoe Company, Ltd., say they have received Government orders and the employees of the company have been furnished with full time employment. The war has been beneficial than otherwise. Taken as a whole, the outlook for 1915 is fairly promising. The John McPherson Co. Limited, report that they have not received heavy orders from the Government, but that business is healthy despite this. The Amherst Boot & Shoe Company state that the war has not affected its business and that the past

three months' sales have been larger than the same months last year, which was the banner year for the company. Employees benefit from war orders mostly, say the Hartt Boot and Shoe Company, and our mills are busy. Regular orders are slightly smaller but we consider the situation good. The John Ritchie Co., Ltd., report Government orders to hand which they consider good extra business. They are well pleased with the outlook as they have more work on hand than at this time last year. They do not think the war is having a detrimental effect upon the shoe industry in Canada.

The Kaufman Company estimate the war's benefit as \$50,000 additional business for them, as nearly that much extra wages to their employees. In addition to the regular business of the Canadian Rubber Company, which has been as good as at any time in the past eighteen months, employees to the number of 1,700 were directly affected by the order for the first contingent for overshoes, ground sheets, raincoats, etc.

The purchases of remounts for the first contingent and what have been made since its sailing, have been heavy and easily reach the total of \$1,000,000.

The general leather and saddlery business has also received a good healthy boost due to recent orders placed by the British and French Governments, saddlery purchased in Canada for the French Government amounts to 15,000 sets at \$52 per set, 30,000 saddle blankets at \$3.00 apiece and 350,000 blankets at \$4 apiece. The British Government has ordered 10,000 sets of saddlery at \$40 each and 3,500 sets of artillery harness costing \$80 the set. So that it may be seen that industry is by no means running into the ground.

When it is also taken into consideration that at the time of the mobilization of the Canadian troops at Valcartier, local packers did a very heavy business with them in supplying them with sufficient meats for their sustenance there, as well as produce concerns, general industry and trade has benefited a very great deal. On top of this comes the forecast of a local packing house, which says that two or three millions' worth of meats would cross the ocean to meet the unusual demands there. He also reports that his company's pay-roll has increased twenty-five per cent. since war was declared.

UNIVERSITY LANDS IN CHILCOTIN DISTRICT

In this district, practically all the lands with accessible water and those carrying good natural or artificial pastures or meadows have already been acquired by the Indians or by large ranchers. Almost the entire country, with the exception of the narrow river valleys, is in the neighborhood of 3,000 feet in altitude. The soil on the higher lands is, in the main, comparatively shallow, and in some places gravelly and stony. The precipitation is light over the entire area, but wherever water has been applied good crops of natural or cultivated hay and of alfalfa have been obtained.

Dry-farming is almost everywhere regarded as impracticable, but up to the present time very few have given it a fair trial. Some settlers north of Riske Creek are reported to have done fairly well, while Mr. Elliott, who is in charge of the Government dry land farm at 105 Mile House, has made a most promising beginning, with a total precipitation of but twelve inches. Splendid threshed samples of wheat, oats and barley were examined, and promising specimens of brome, timothy, red clover, alsike and alfalfa were inspected in the field.

All University lands were over-grazed. Grasshoppers have done a great deal of damage to the range during the past season, and in some instances have done considerable injury to the crops of the dry farmers. On the whole, the lands belonging to the University can perhaps best be described as good range land.