

to impose certain restrictions in that country, we could do no less than impose corresponding restrictions here. We have done that; and subsequently we have had conferences with the provincial governments with regard to the intensely vital question of fuel supply for the present year. The House may anticipate that at no distant date new regulations of a very comprehensive character will be placed before it by the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

There has also been effected with the United States a Military Service Convention, the text of which will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is ratified. The services of Mr. Newcombe, Deputy Minister of Justice, and of Col. MacInnes of the Department of Militia and Defence were requested by the Government and these gentlemen proceeded to Washington. There had been a great deal of delay previously in reaching a conclusion, but after a visit of a week or ten days they were able to arrive at an understanding which, I think, is in the interest of both countries, and which the governments of both countries regard as fair and reasonable.

In addition to all that I have mentioned, we have had a great many conferences first and last, during the past three or four months. We have had two formal conferences with the Labour organizations and a great many informal conferences. We have had the conference, to which I have alluded, with the provincial governments. There has been a conference with the Women's organizations. We have had conferences with the returned soldiers' organizations. At every one of these conferences interesting and important questions were taken up and, on the whole, I believe that satisfactory results were reached.

Mr. BUREAU: It has been stated that there has been an agreement between the United States Government and the Canadian Government in regard to enrolment for military service. Very often Americans who are working on this side of the line ask whether under this agreement they can enlist with the Canadian forces or whether they must go to the United States in order to enlist. Can the Prime Minister answer that question before the text of the convention is laid on the Table?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I think my hon. friend will find there are satisfactory dispositions with regard to that in the convention. Without having the actual text of the convention before me, I should not care to give a definite answer to my hon. friend, but I shall be glad to see that a

copy of the convention is sent to him personally as he is interested in the subject.

I have imposed myself to some extent upon the patience of the House in giving these details as to what our work has been during a period of somewhat less than four months. It seems to me important that the House and the country should know as precisely as possible what has been done. I have only enumerated these matters; I have not elaborated them at all. Fuller and more detailed information will be given later in the session. This is intended only as a brief resumé, but I think it will convince hon. gentlemen and the people of the country as well that during their period of office the Government has not been idle. And I have not by any means spoken of every problem that has engaged the attention of the Government during that time. There has been the question of railway rates and railway taxation. There is the question of railway nationalization. There are many other questions.

With respect to the financial and commercial stability of the country, the House may be interested to know that the importations for eleven months ending 28th February amounted to \$875,266,149; that the exports during the same period were \$1,482,450,836; that the total foreign trade of the country during those eleven months was therefore \$2,357,716,965, and that there was a favourable trade balance of \$607,184,667. The exportation of our foods this year will depend upon the crops. I have spoken of the difficulty connected with the provision of finance, and hon. gentlemen will realize that in a moment. Suppose, as seems likely, that we shall have this year an exportation to Great Britain of \$800,000,000 in excess of our importations from that country. Provision must be made for payment. Those supplies are vitally necessary for the use of Great Britain and the Allied nations.

Mr. MURPHY: That would be an excess?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Yes. That is supposed to be a reasonable estimate, although it is only an estimate, as my hon. friend will understand. It is based upon the experience of the past two years. It is equally important to our people that provision should be made to pay for their productions. I hope hon. gentlemen will realize that the financial problems thus presented for the consideration of the Government are of no mean order.

I have already alluded to the fact that the Government proposes to introduce a Bill at the present session for the purpose of extending the franchise to women. A