

than 240 different parts. The supply of the simpler portions of the shell both in Great Britain and here has vastly outstripped the production of the more difficult and complicated portions. However, the work is in good hands both in Great Britain and in this country, and I have no doubt that we shall be able to advance in Canada as rapidly as in any other part of the world.

I need not speak of the necessity of munitions. Every hon. gentleman who has kept himself acquainted with the incidents of this war realizes most thoroughly that vast armies are absolutely of no use unless they are supplied with artillery of the most powerful type and with a most abundant provision of munitions.

I took up with the British Government Canada's ability to furnish supplies necessary for the war. We have repeatedly brought that subject to the attention of the British and allied governments. I took it up during my recent visit with several members of the British Government and I pressed it upon them most earnestly as I had done previously by correspondence. We provided them with a list of articles of a very varied character that could be furnished by this country for the use of the allied nations. I discussed also with the British authorities the importance of emphasizing to the allied governments the abundant resources of Canada for supplying many needed articles. I had also a conference with the International Purchasing Commission, or, as it is known, the Commission Internationale de Ravitaillement. All of the allied nations were represented there. I furnished them with a full list of articles that we could supply, and I pressed upon them the importance of looking to Canada in that regard.

Mr. Wintour, the Director of Contracts in the War Office, gave me a statement of the amount of the orders which had been placed in Canada up to the 10th July, 1915, and I was glad to observe that the total orders placed in Canada to that time ran up to \$240,000,000. I have very little doubt that up to the 1st January, 1916, the amount of orders placed in Canada, not only by the British Government but by the allied governments, will run well up to \$500,000,000. This is a great tribute to the producing power of Canada. The variety of articles supplied is immense, many new industries have been established, some of which will certainly be permanent, and there has also been a greatly increased production in others.

Then, I took up also with the British Government the important question of transportation. More than a year ago we arranged with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company that we should have the services of Mr. A. H. Harris in order to organize transportation for the very large supplies which were ordered in this country by the British Government. As indicating what has been accomplished in that regard I shall read an extract from a recent report of Mr. Harris. I need not read the whole report, but just a few paragraphs. He says:

The prompt action of the government in adopting my suggestion has secured to Canadian manufacturers and farmers an uninterrupted outlet for the hundreds of millions of dollars worth of War Office orders, the acceptance of which would not have been possible but for the inauguration of an economical overseas service.

Further, the fact that the transports owing to their regularity in sailings have been in a position to handle promptly the War Office supplies which otherwise would have occupied space on regular liners, has been of distinct advantage to the export trade of Canada, and has released to that extent ocean space for commercial tonnage. Since the inauguration of the service not a pound of Imperial Government transport has been forwarded on regular liners.

During the period between 28th August, 1914, and 30th April, 1915, 244,913 gross tons were handled on account of Imperial and Dominion governments.

Between, however, the 1st of May and 30th November, 1915, there was an enormous expansion—over 410,000 tons being forwarded during that period (7 months), or about 67 per cent more than was moved in the preceding 8 months.

The Overseas Department is now being called upon to provide for about 125,000 gross tons of munitions, war material and supplies per month, or approximately one and a half million tons per annum, and the tonnage is still growing.

He then goes on to give the number of transports and sailings. I need not read further, but I may inform the House that in February, 1915, we arranged with the Admiralty for eighteen transports, which number has been increased during the past six or seven months to forty transports of which, during the winter, twenty are allotted to Halifax and twenty to St. John. In this way the producers of the country have had a great deal of necessary assistance in the transportation of their supplies.

Besides that we have continually been in communication with the Admiralty, both during my visit in the past summer, and by correspondence as well, in regard to the necessity of releasing as far as possible tonnage for the North Atlantic service and we