

particular attention to this "*Commercial Advisory Committee*" and to say that I would be glad to find in Toronto some countrymen who would be willing to accept such an honorary appointment to a temporary "*Advisory Committee*" attached to the Swiss Consulate-General in Montreal, at least, until the Swiss Federal Council has appointed a new Consul in Toronto. Such a Committee, if carefully selected, may be of the greatest help in giving correct information and calling the attention of the official representative to opportunities for the marketing of Swiss goods.

I shall not go into more detail on the subject to-night. Some data from statistics may, however, show you convincingly, that as far as *SWISS CANADIAN TRADE* is concerned, an efficient information service under the direction of the Swiss Consulate-General in Montreal, assisted by the other Consulates and by such Advisory Committees could do very much for the development of the Swiss Canadian commercial relations.

I may say in passing that statistics of foreign trade during the war do not give a correct idea of the importance of trade relations largely on account of the advance in prices. I will, however, try my best to illustrate my point from available material.

The total value of the Swiss-Canadian trade exchange was in 1913, before the war, about fifty million francs; it decreased steadily during the war and shows in 1918 a total value of only fifteen million francs. According to the official statistics, which, as we shall see later on, are not correct, the trade balance was always in favour of Switzerland as the following table indicates:

1913 (in million frs.)		20	31
1914		15	29
1915		0.3	26
1916		1	39
1917		1.8	23
1918		0.4	14

The sudden increase of exports in 1916 which appears from this list is due entirely to textiles and watches.

Switzerland is *importing from Canada* foodstuffs, such as cereals, canned fish and flour. Furthermore, hides, furs, asbestos, mica and finally, small quantities of chemical