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### PENNSYLVANIA FIRE LEGISLATION.

In an effort to lessen fire losses the State of Pennsylvania has put some very drastic legislation on its statue books. Part of the enactment declares that, in addition to other penalties arising out of neglect of the fire laws, persons shall be liable, in civil action, for the payment of all costs and expenses in-"The amount of such costs," the measure declares "shall be determined by the director of the Department of Public Safety, based upon the wages of the firemen and other offices for the time they were engaged in the extinguishment or the attempt to extinguish such fire; a reasonable amount as rental for the use of fire apparatus, also the cost of the water used in putting out of fires, with an additional amount of ten per cent of the total amount as supervisory or overhead charges - all of which shall be paid into the civic treasuries."

### MAKE THIS OUR PENANCE LOAN.

(New York Tribune.)

Our outlay in the first year, aside from loans, was rather less than that of any of the four principal belligerents - England, Germany, France and Russia -in their first year of the struggle. Proportional to its population and resources, it may be said in a very rough way that the United States in its initial year made about one-third as large a contribution to the war as our chief allies or our chief antagonist made. This, of course, excludes loans to the allies, because these are secured chiefly by the bonds and obligations of France and England.

Only about \$15,000,000 was lost to Russia. But even if we put together all our loans and all our expenditures our outlay in the twelve months falls considerably short of that of little England for the same period.

We have two and one-half times the population of Great Britain and nearly double its industrial and banking strength. Our output of steel, for example, before the war was more than twice that of Great

England's expenditures for the last year, including loans to her allies, amounted to \$11,500,000,000.

A proportional expenditure by the United States would have been at least \$22,000,000,000. And if we were to compare our resources now, swollen by three unparalleled years of war profits, with those of England, depleted now after three years of a grim and gruelling struggle, the relative expenditure might easily have been above \$30,000,000,000.

In these three and a half years, it will be remembered, more than two-thirds of Britain's adult male strength has been at one time or another enlisted in her army and navy.

When we have raised a proportional army we shall have sent to France 17,000,000 men!

But it will be said that we are far overseas, 3,000 miles away from the seat of war. Secrétary Baker reminded us of that in framing our excuses.

Well, our neighbor on the northern border has already raised, by volunteer action, an army of 400,000 men, and is now gathering another hundred thousand by conscription. Canada has about one-sixteenth the population of the United States.

An army of half a million men, therefore, for Canada would be the equivalent of an army of 8,000,000 men for the United States.

Canadian war loans to date aggregate \$76,000,000. The equivalent of this for the United States would be \$12,000,000,000.

And far-away Australia has done even better. Her new loan, which will call for \$100,000,000, closes this week. It will bring the total of loans well above \$600,000,000. A proportional amount for the United States would mean \$15,000,000,000.

England's total expenditures to date are very nearly \$35,000,000,000. Of this her total of loans to her allies reaches nearly \$7,500,000,000.

When we shall have made a proportional outlay our loans to our allies will reach at least \$15,000,000,-000, and our own direct war expenditures will have been \$60,000,000,000.

We cite these figures at the present time lest any one should imagine that we have made, to date, any great sacrifice in this war or any heroic effort to win the war. The figures for France are parallel and on the same scale. What England has done France has done.-New York Tribune

#### CANADIAN TRADE EXPANSION SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR.

The trade returns for the fiscal year just ended as issued by the Census and Statistics Office, show that the volume of the external trade of Canada is now greater than at any previous period in the curred by the fire department in stamping out fires. history of the Dominion. For the fiscal year ended March 31, 1918, the grand total of the imports for consumption and exports of Canadian merchandise -taking no account of the movement of coin and bullion — was over two billions and a half of dollars.

Imports for consumption for the fiscal year 1918 were greater by 56 per cent than for the year just prior to the war, viz .: - the fiscal year 1914. Under the stimulus of war orders, the export trade shows a still greater development, exports of Canadian goods for the fiscal year 1918 exceeding in value similar exports in 1914 by 256 per cent.

The total trade for Canada-Imports for consumption and exports of Canadian produce amounted to \$2,502,549,635, for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1918, while the value for similar trade for the fiscal year just prior to the war amounted to \$1,050.045,583, showing an increase from 1914 to 1918 of \$1,452,504,-052. This increase is more than the whole trade for the fiscal year 1916. The imports of merchandise for the ficsal year 1918 were valued at \$962,521,847, and in 1914 at \$618,457,144, showing an increase of \$344,064,703, whilst the exports of Canadian merchandise in 1918 amounted to \$1,540,027,788 and in 1914 to \$431,588,439, showing a betterment from 1914-18, of \$1,108,439,349.

From 1914 to 1918 the exports of the mine increased 349,119 to \$172,743,081; agricultural products from \$20.623,560 to \$32.602.151; the forest from \$42.792.137 to \$51,899,704; animals and their produce from \$53,-349,119 to \$178,743,081; agricultural products from \$198,220,029 to \$567,713,584; manufactured goods from \$57,443,452 to \$636,602,516,

During the fiscal year 1918 the customs revenue amounted to \$161,588,465; in 1914 the similar revenue amounted to \$107,180,578, showing an increase from 1914 to 1918 of \$54,407,887, or about 51 per cent.

## BANK OF MONTREAL

NOTICE is hereby given that a DIVIDEND OF TWO-AND-ONE-HALF PER CENT. upon the paid up Capital Stock of this Institution has been declared for the current quarter, also a BONUS OF ONE PER CENT., both payable on and after Saturday, the FIRST DAY OF JUNE next, to Shareholders of record of 30th April, 1918.

By order of the Board FREDERICK WILLIAMS-TAYLOR,

Montreal, 23rd April, 1918.

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