

sideration there will be ample opportunity to discuss this question?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: The same discussion can take place.

Mr. GRAHAM: I do not see any reason why this should not pass.

Mr. THOMPSON: Have we any trade or commercial agents in South America?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Yes, we have a representative in Buenos Aires. The former and actual commissioner of trade there was Mr. Pousette who was one of our experienced trade commissioners and who was changed from South Africa to that point about four years ago. But Mr. Pousette went overseas and the work of the department in Buenos Aires is being done by Mr. Webb, who also is a very efficient man. That reminds me that to-day I had a letter from a very prominent Canadian who has just made a tour of the Argentine. I had given him letters to Mr. Webb, and he had called upon him. He was very cordial in his praises of the services Mr. Webb performed for him and gave a very flattering idea of the worth of his services to Canada. When the war is over, Mr. Pousette will take his place again. In addition, we have the services of the British consuls in all South America. Two years ago Mr. Pousette made a tour of the states of South America, and consulted personally the consular agents. We have found his report of great value.

Mr. THOMPSON: I followed with great interest the discussion which has taken place. I feel very strongly that Canada, in the very near future, will have a golden opportunity to reach out and get her share of the world's trade. Our interprovincial trade, of course, has been a great factor in our economic development; but we have built our transcontinental railways, subsidized our steamships, dredged our harbours, lighted our coasts, all with the ultimate idea of making our country one of the great trade routes of the world. And I think that just now, with war in progress and the sympathies of our Allies with us, we cannot do better than project our ideas regarding trade in the future with neutral countries and with our Allies. I have always thought that we have never got our full share of the South American trade. Germany has had a very large percentage of it; Great Britain has had a large percentage of it; France has had a very

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considerable percentage; but Canada, I feel, has never had as great a share of South American trade as we should have had. In the countries that lie adjacent to the Equator, I believe, there is great opportunity for exchange of products with Canada. Brazil, for instance, offers a large field for the exploitation of our extra-territorial commerce. They grow many things which we want, and we grow many things which they want, pulpwood, for instance. It is generally considered that we have enormous resources in our forests for the making of pulp, and I believe that Brazil imports a large quantity. The woods indigenous to the soil of Brazil, we are told, are not suitable for the making of pulp. That is one item, which, I think, the Minister of Trade and Commerce should investigate. I understand that there is an opening there in a larger way than in the past for the sale of our fish. Many of our manufactured products might find a market in Brazil. I am glad to know that we have a trade agent in the Argentine. Though that country and ourselves compete in many things, still there are articles which we can exchange with mutual profit. I hope the Minister of Trade and Commerce will be seized—as I am sure he will be—of the importance of cultivating as far as possible the exchange of products between Canada and the republics of South America. There is a great opportunity right now, and I believe that our neighbours in the United States are exploiting those markets in South America to-day, and I hope that we shall get our full share from now on as we have not had that full share in the past.

Progress reported.

On motion of Sir George Foster, the House adjourned at 11.35 p.m.

Wednesday, April 19, 1916.

The House met at Three o'clock, the Speaker in the Chair.

QUESTIONS.

[Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.]

CANADIAN PAY AND RECORD OFFICE, LONDON.

Mr. MACDONALD:

1. How many persons are employed in the Pay and Record Office, in London, England, in addition to the commissioned officers?
2. What is the average cost per month of the operation of said office?