

CANADA FURNISHES ARMY SUPPLIES

Equipping the Dominion's Troops—Britain and Allied Countries Buy Here

With regard to the purchase of army supplies for Canada's soldiers, Hon. A. E. Kemp, chairman of the war purchasing committee, has given the following information:—

The question having been raised as to whether or not Canadian troops in England were receiving clothing, boots and all kinds of equipment, from Canadian sources, it is thought that the public might be interested in knowing the extent to which the Canadian government has impressed upon the British authorities the desirability of purchasing as much supplies as possible in the Dominion.

All clothing, underclothing, boots, necessities, and all equipment, including transport vehicles and harness, issued to Canadian troops in England are of Canadian manufacture, and these supplies are to be found in the Canadian Ordnance Depot, located at Ashford, Kent, to which place all stores are shipped from Canada, and from there are issued to the different units in England.

Guns and their vehicles, also technical instruments, have been provided by the war office, not being obtainable in this country.

For Troops in France.

Supplies for the troops in France are issued by the British government, through that branch of the war office which provides for the whole British forces in France. This arrangement was obviously highly necessary in the interests of the efficiency of the army.

Since Canada has undertaken the obligation of paying the whole cost of the expeditionary force, and since the Canadian people have cheerfully entered into the sacrifice entailed by their participation in the war, the government have from the beginning taken the position, not merely that the Canadian producer should have the benefit of orders for such supplies and equipment as would provide for the Canadian troops, but, further, that in respect of all purchases for the purposes of the war for which the British government find it necessary to go outside the British Isles, the British Dominions should always, in preference to neutrals, be given the first opportunity of tendering.

During the prime minister's visit to England in the summer of 1915, in interviews with the heads of the purchasing branches of the various British departments concerned, he took occasion to impress upon them in unmistakable terms that the Canadian government would insist on this point. They stated that they had recognized the force of this position already put before them many times by the Canadian government, and that every effort had been made to adopt it. As a result it appears that purchases of supplies, equipment, clothing, etc., produced in Canada have reached an amount which is not merely proportionate to the requirements of the Canadian forces abroad, but is very greatly in excess of such requirements, varying in fact in respect of various articles from a ratio of two to one to a ratio of thirty to one.

Preference to British Dominions.

The position that the British government in making all war purchases for whatever purpose, whether purely Canadian or not, should, wherever it was necessary to go outside the British Isles, give a preference to the British Dominions over neutrals, has been insisted upon by the government on numberless occasions since the outbreak of war. The British government have agreed to this principle, and have repeatedly given assurance that it has in fact been carried out by them.

To cite evidence of the diligence of the Canadian government in bringing to the attention of the British government the desirability as far as possible to purchase in Canada, a cursory examination of the files during the first 11 months of the war shows that over 200 cablegrams had been exchanged between the prime minister and Sir George Perley, acting high commissioner for Canada in London, on this subject; while since that date there has been a constant exchange of cablegrams on the same subject. These cablegrams, it may be said, have reference not only to the requirements of Great Britain, but also to those of the allied governments, and general information as to supplies of various kinds obtainable in Canada. A large number of cable-

grams have been exchanged in connection with the efforts to secure adequate transportation facilities between Canada and English and foreign ports where Canadian supplies might be in demand. Still further representations have been made in the direction of devising means of financing this commerce entailed by the war. No reference is made to large shipments of produce, munitions or ingredients therefor, for the allied governments.

PACIFIC SHIPYARDS ARE BUSY

Vancouver, October 21st.

Shipbuilding in the Pacific North-west has received impetus during the past few months. Ships are under construction in almost every yard between Portland and Vancouver. Representatives of Norwegian interests now on the coast propose letting contracts for the construction of boats that will aggregate about \$10,000,000. There is a prospect of this business coming to British Columbia, but the builders want to be allowed to have the boats transferred to Norwegian interests after they are completed. Communication has been made with Ottawa in regard to this point, but it has not been settled. At the outbreak of the war the admiralty requested the Dominion government not to permit the transfer of ships to any other than the British flag, and an order-in-council was passed accordingly.

CANADIANS FOR BRITAIN'S PROTECTING NAVY

It was in silence that the British fleet disappeared from view on the 26th June, 1914, and made it unsafe for the Kaiser to despatch his squadrons, then quartered in Norwegian fiords, by way of the Atlantic, to destroy the French fleet in the Mediterranean. This silence, broken only once off Jutland, has veiled the battle squadrons of Great Britain from the gaze of the world since the war began. And yet, protected by those great unseen ships, the commerce of the world has gone on; troops from every dominion and British possession have sailed over thousands of miles; millions of British soldiers have gone to France, Greece, Egypt, East and West Africa, Mesopotamia and China, and the Entente allies have been supplied with coal, steel, oil, shells and guns, and all the other necessities of war, as well as everything required for their sustenance. In short, the silent navy has made possible the resounding blows delivered by the army wherever the enemy is at bay in his long and attenuated battle lines. Canada is asked now to supply men for the new superdreadnoughts. There ought to be an instant response.

COMPARATIVE COST OF LEATHER AND FINDINGS

The unprecedented advance in the price of materials entering into the manufacture of leather is dealt with in the monthly letter of the First National Bank of Boston, in which is shown the high prices of leather and findings in September, 1916, as compared with those for February, 1916, and July, 1915. We print the table below:—

Comparative Cost of Leather and Findings Entering into Construction of Shoes.

	July, '15.	Feb., '16.	Sept., '16.	% Inc. (14 mos.)
Tan calf	\$0.29	\$0.36	\$0.50-54	80
Black dull calf .....	.29	.35	.46-50	65
Colored kid .....	.40	.55	.65-70	70
Men's glazed kid .....	.17-35	.18-40	.28-50	65-43
Women's glazed kid .....	.20	.28	.32	60
Full chrome side leather .....	.24	.29	.34	42
Patent side leather .....	.29	.32	.37	27
Black sheep skins .....	.07	.12	.19	171
Union sole leather .....	.46	.58	.65	41
Hemlock sole leather .....	.28	.35	.38	21
Women's cut soles, first quality .....	.20	.30	.34	70
Men's cut soles, first quality .....	.40	.47	.50	25
Duck lining (per yard) .....	.12½	.14½	.19½	58
Men's laces (per gross) .....	.40	1.25	1.00	150
Mat sheep topping .....	.08	.11	.18-20	150
Packer steer backs .....	.40	.52	.60	50