

of the most effective type and of the best possible construction, which have been of the most material assistance to the Allies and to the homeland in the fight in Flanders and elsewhere. Now we find that within the last two weeks the intimation has gone abroad that those industries have in a great many cases absolutely discontinued the manufacture of shells. Great numbers of men and women have been discharged from employment. Many of these men are not of military age, but they were giving their best service to the country in the war. The women also were playing a great part by helping to produce munitions. Under those conditions I am astonished at the right hon. gentleman having the audacity to say to the House and the country that we have no right to discuss the question of the stoppage of that production. Not only have we been sending shells of different varieties, but we have been sending steel ingots from which the shells were being forged on the other side of the Atlantic. I understand the situation in Canada to be that a great number of the industries which have been producing certain types of shells have been notified that they must stop altogether. This notification comes without the slightest preliminary warning. Large amounts of capital have been invested in these industries, and machines of all kinds have been obtained and put to work. People who were dependent upon these industries for employment and for their livelihood have been laid aside without any notice whatever. There is no suggestion of compensation either to the people who have their capital invested or to the workers who have been depending upon the industry for their livelihood. Without a word of warning they are notified that no more shells will be produced.

What is the reason of this? There has been no large discussion upon this shell question during this session of Parliament. Whenever hon. gentlemen on this side of the House ventured to mention the matter we were told it was a matter of Imperial concern, which is not correct for it is largely a question of Canadian concern. On 25th August last I asked the right hon. gentleman who leads the House (Sir George Foster) for some information in regard to the matter, and he said:

Sir George Foster: I should prefer that the full answer be given by the Minister of Finance or the Prime Minister, but if there be any stoppage of the manufacture of shells in this country or any diminution, as I believe there is to

[Mr. Macdonald.]

be, it is because the variety of shell whose manufacture will be diminished or discontinued is not now needed from Canada, as they are able to produce them in sufficient quantities in Great Britain.

That is all the hon. gentleman knew of this important question two weeks ago. Has he learned anything further about it since? The Minister of Finance (Sir Thomas White), on the following Monday, made a further statement in regard to the matter, and in the course of that statement, he said, as reported in Hansard of that day:

The minister—

That is, the Imperial Minister of Munitions.

—has now advised that it is unnecessary to continue production in Canada on the present scale. He has directed that certain lines shall be discontinued; that other lines shall be produced in lessened quantities; while some lines are to be continued as at present.

The effect of this will be to stop the production of shells and components at some plants which are now producing sizes no longer required.

The manufacture of the larger shells has been discontinued. The orders for these small shells have been coming in, but it is impossible to maintain these industries, or to continue their organization, under these conditions. The result is that the production of shells in Canada is to be stopped altogether. The Minister of Finance went further and said:

These changes have been anticipated by several important firms, who have already resumed, or are planning to resume, their pre-war activities in their own lines.

In all these steel industries there were no pre-war activities. Under the régime of hon. gentlemen opposite, in the summer of 1914, the steel industries of this country were closing their doors. Perhaps my hon. friend's policy will bring about the same condition again. He does not care whether shells are produced in Canada and sent to Great Britain, as long as he gets his Franchise Bill put through. The Government, through its inaction, is bringing back the pre-war condition, the pre-war lack of work and bread, which existed in this country previous to 1914, without attempting to provide a remedy. My hon. friend went on to say:

During July, we advanced \$35,000,000; during August we are advancing \$35,000,000, and we have arranged to continue the advances of \$25,000,000 a month, during September, October, November and December, so that the Dominion Government will continue to make the advances which we have been making in the past.

If hon. gentlemen in this House or any gentleman in the country can tell us, from