

suffered severely from the recent fire, and I would join him in suggesting to the government that in future no piling ground should be allowed within the precincts of the city of Ottawa. If the lumber were taken down the river a few miles in barges, it would only be a question of handling it once more, and it would not be left in the city as it is often for months and years at the disposal of those who buy it for the English market. Of course the longer the lumber is allowed to remain there, the drier it gets and the more danger there is from it. I would suggest to the government that the attention of those who are getting this money should be drawn to the matter, and that pressure be brought to bear on the city authorities to pass a by-law preventing any lumber being stored within the city limits.

Mr. GEORGE E. CASEY (West Elgin). As one who has for long known the condition of affairs in this city, I cannot help adding a word to what has been already said with regard to the danger arising from the presence of saw-mills and lumber piles here. I have seen Hull burned out twice; fourteen years ago and twenty years ago, and on those occasions it was predicted that there would be a great conflagration if the wind blew in the direction in which it blew last Thursday. No one, however, realized to the full extent the destruction that would be caused if a high wind blowing in a certain direction coincided with the existence of a fire among the lumber. As has been pointed out, the government is giving this money practically for relief purposes, and they cannot directly interfere, but I am sure that a suggestion from the government to the city authorities of Ottawa and Hull would have the greatest possible weight. Indeed the government itself has power to regulate what shall be done at and about the Chaudière, the water powers of which are held under leases from the government. Not only should no lumber piling be allowed on any grounds over which the government has control, but, in view of the electrical transmission of power it is not necessary to have these mills at the exact point where the water-power exists. It is quite possible for the power to be generated at the Chaudière Falls and used economically at a spot a few miles away, where the lumber could be piled with less danger, and to which the logs could be brought on the river. I have no doubt that the government have taken this into consideration, but I think it is essential that something should be actually done. There is no hope of establishing a permanent city where Ottawa now stands so long as the lumber industry is permitted to pervade the whole city, as it does at present. I hope something will be done to remedy the existing condition of things.

Mr. JOHN CHARLTON (North Norfolk). The presence of lumber piles within the limits of the city is, of course, a menace to the existence of property; but if the government were to adopt measures to prevent the recurrence of such a calamity as has befallen the sister cities of Ottawa and Hull, it would be necessary to make provision with regard to the character of the buildings that shall be erected. Nothing is more inflammable than such wooden buildings as existed in Hull prior to this fire. It must be remembered that the fire did not originate in the lumber piles nor upon the premises of the mill-owners of this city. The fire originated in a section of the city of Hull where the houses were small and built of pine, and were, so to speak, simply tinder boxes. The fire originated in a section of the city where it had a long sweep, and as it acquired great force from the high wind, it became entirely unmanageable before it reached the lumber district or the mills. If the government, or if the city authorities desire to adopt measures to prevent the recurrence of such a calamity, it will be necessary to see that only fire proof buildings are erected. So long as we have a city like Hull, consisting almost exclusively of pine board buildings, there will always be danger of a conflagration. The lumbermen of this city have taken all precautions to protect their business from fire. I may be mistaken, but I think you cannot point to a single instance where a fire has originated in the lumber district or where the fact that lumber is piled in the city of Ottawa was responsible for the origin of the fire. Of course, when the fire got beyond control and reached the lumber district, it was bound to sweep everything before it; and had the wind on Thursday last been from the westward, no human power (in the face of a gale blowing at fifty miles an hour) could have saved the greater portion of the city of Ottawa from destruction. It is not right that we should place the responsibility for this calamity on one industry, when, in reality, that industry has simply been called upon to suffer in common with others, and has made provision to the utmost of its ability to prevent such disaster. The lumbermen of Ottawa have always maintained a separate fire organization of their own, and they have always been equipped with fire appliances for coping with any fire in the most efficient manner. I think myself it would be better to have the lumber removed from the city limits as far as possible; but still we must bear in mind that it is impossible to remove entirely the danger that exists, if we are to prosecute the lumber industry in this city. If we are to have mills for converting logs into lumber with the water power of the Chaudière, we must afford those mills such facilities as are indispensable to the prosecution of their business. We might impose