

more myself, to enable me to fill my contracts." And, knowing the needs of the Allies as I did, from what I had seen while in Europe, I was forced to agree with him that the work the men were doing in the munition factories was as vital as the need of men for overseas service. This aspect of the situation has been almost entirely lost sight of in the discussion over the part played by French-Canadians in the war. I do not know whether you are aware of it, my dear Mr. Premier, but it is a fact that can be corroborated, if need be, that there are at the present time one hundred thousand French-Canadians working in munition factories and war employment in Canada. My personal belief is that that is a very conservative estimate, but it makes, you will, I am sure, admit, a very impressive showing. Now, my dear Mr. Premier, what I desire to emphasize is that these one hundred thousand or more French-Canadians who are working in the munitions factories were led to believe, and do believe, that they are rendering as important and vital a service to the cause of the Allies as the men who have enlisted for overseas service. In common fairness, therefore, they should be regarded as part of Quebec's contribution to the war, just as much as the men who are actually at the front. You must know that at a time when the need of munitions was most urgent, men were brought from the front to England and France and placed at making munitions, and that every man at work in a munition factory in England, as well as in the other Allied countries, is regarded as just as important a factor in the war as the soldier at the front. No one would dream of calling such a man a "slacker" or a "shirker,"