

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I do not believe that a better business man than Sir George Perley, who has had wide business experience, can be found in Canada. I know that his time has been taken up more largely with the matters of business than with matters of diplomacy. When I was in London during the past summer I asked him whether he required on his staff any additional persons who should be familiar with these matters, or whether he required any further organization. I assured him that if he desired any additional organization or any increase in his staff, the Government would be only too happy to make the necessary provision therefor. He told me that up to that time the staff had been adequate for all needs, and that if he should require any addition or reorganization, he would let me know, in which case the Government would make any provision that might be necessary or desirable.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I have heard from persons who ought to know that for a number of years the High Commissioner's Office has been lacking in officials who are Canadians. It has been strongly urged that Canadians of ability and experience ought to be attached to the office. That complaint was made at the time of Lord Strathcona's commissionership, and it is made to-day, notwithstanding the change that has taken place in the High Commissioner's Office. If my right hon. friend will ask the representatives of the provinces in London, what they think of the official circle in the High Commissioner's Office, I am sure he will be told that it is not at all satisfactory. The difficulty seems to be, and has been for years, that the office is looked upon rather as a diplomatic office, and that those who are in charge regard themselves as being above and separated from the ordinary people of Canada. I heard that statement not very long ago from a very able man who has been the representative of one of the provinces in London, and that which I heard a few weeks ago was the same story that I heard a few years ago. More Canadian life ought to be infused into the High Commissioner's office. No matter how good a business man he may be, the High Commissioner, occupying the distinguished position that he does—which, as I have said, is largely diplomatic—cannot be supposed to give to business matters the attention which would be given to them by business experts. My right hon. friend says that if the correspondence were dis-

closed it would be seen that he has made vigorous protests to the officials of the British Government respecting orders in Canada. The very fact that he found it necessary to do that is a reflection upon the High Commissioner's office. Why should my right hon. friend have found it necessary to make vigorous protests against the way Canada was being treated in respect to war orders? The proper officials of the High Commissioner's office ought to have been looking after that. They ought to have informed the officials day after day with those who had the giving of war orders. They ought to have informing the officials of the British Government that Canadian manufacturers were prepared to turn out all supplies needed for the equipment of soldiers just as well as manufacturers in the United States. The Minister of Militia has said that after the war broke out the officials of the British Government were actually of the settled opinion that shells could not be manufactured in Canada. Why were they so ignorant of the capability of Canadian manufacturers? Should they not have been informed by the officials of the High Commissioner's office that Canadian manufacturers could turn out shells? Why was it necessary for the Minister of Militia to cable to England the information that Canadian manufacturers were capable of turning out shells? So with other matters. Why was it that up to a few months ago it was thought by officials in Great Britain that Canada could not manufacture fuses? Large orders for the manufacture of fuses were given in the United States; I believe that these fuses have not yet been delivered to the British Government. Why were the officials of the British Government not informed that these fuses could be manufactured in Canada just as well as in the United States, and why should not these millions of dollars have been distributed among the Canadian people instead of among people of the United States? Why has it remained for Mr. Flavelle, as Chairman of the Munitions Board, after almost eighteen months, to take the first steps for the manufacture of fuses in Canada, when everybody knows that our manufacturers have the skill, the enterprise, the capital, the opportunity to establish factories which would enable them to do this work just as well as manufacturers in the United States do it? My hon. friend has a just ground for making, on behalf of the Canadian people, the complaint which he