

Sir SAM HUGHES: Far more than that.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: My hon. friend the late Minister of Militia and Defence thinks that the estimate that I have given of the number of soldiers transported is too low. I have taken this from some source—I cannot quite remember what. Hospital trains have been established on the Intercolonial Railway for wounded soldiers in connection with the Military Hospitals Commission. The Canadian Government railways have carried more than 250,000 tons of munitions and war stores to St. John and Halifax, and the equipment at St. John and Halifax has been very greatly improved to render possible the handling of the increased monthly tonnage. They have undertaken during the winter months to carry 60,000 tons a month to one port and 20,000 to the other.

Mr. COCHRANE: A hundred thousand.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The tonnage which they have undertaken to transport to the ports of Halifax and St. John during the winter is 100,000 tons per month. It has been necessary to make extensions in the yards and various other improvements at the terminals and at other points and the three new berths at Halifax have been assigned to Canadian overseas transport and will be fully occupied.

Now, I could speak of the work which has been performed, and is being performed, by every department of the Government. I should not omit to mention that which has been undertaken by the Minister of Trade and Commerce. He has made successful efforts for the use of articles for which there was no ready market. He has undertaken a work of research preparatory to the conditions which will confront us when the war is concluded. He has sent officers specially trained for the purpose into some countries where we might expect to find wider markets in the future, and he has occupied himself generally in the task of inducing the producers of Canada to take into account the conditions which will confront this country when peace shall have been concluded.

I would like to impress upon hon. gentlemen in this House the importance of our realizing those conditions. I shall not speak fully upon this subject to-night. It is possible that some opportunity may come later on when it will be proper to give it more consideration. We shall have to consider the demobilization of 400,000 or 500,000 men and their absorption into the national activities of this country. Do hon. gentle-

[Sir Robert Borden.]

men realize what the task of demobilizing such a force will mean? Do they realize what a task it will be to transport these men across the Atlantic? If we bring them across the Atlantic at the rate of a thousand a day, if a steamer sails every day, accommodating a thousand of these men, it will take more than a year to bring them back to Canada. Further than that, it would be a very difficult task to absorb them into their former activities in this country if we attempted it at a much greater rate than that.

Then there is the importance of considering the very large number of men at present engaged in the production of munitions in Canada. As I have already said, they number more than 300,000 men. We have the further problem before us of such immigration as may come to this country from Great Britain when the war is ended. It has been the experience, I believe, after former wars, that men have a tendency to go to a new country with the idea of having a different life, a newer life, an outdoor life and so it may be after this war. No one can predict with certainty; but we may have considerable immigration from the British Isles. Undoubtedly the British Government will desire to retain its people in the United Kingdom, and will make every reasonable provision and offer every reasonable inducement to that end. We must not attempt unduly to interfere with such a policy. But the British Government have another policy, which will commend itself to us; and it is this: if there is to be emigration from the British Islands, it should be the duty of the Government of the Mother Country and of the Governments of the overseas dominions to co-operate, so that this emigration may be to a country under our Flag, to one of the overseas dominions of the Empire. We have offered to co-operate, and we shall co-operate, with the British Government for that purpose. We shall also co-operate, and we have offered to co-operate, with the provincial governments of Canada for that purpose. There was a recent conference between the Federal Government and the provincial governments at which these matters were under consideration. The most important purpose that we can have before us with regard to British immigrants as well as our own soldiers returning from the front is that as many as possible of them should settle on the land. It will be the duty of the Dominion Government and of the provincial governments—and I know that they realize this duty—to offer such