

any reference to the home market, but I find in looking up particulars of the home market that it is a very valuable one. We have in Canada in round figures nearly 35,000 establishments with a capital investment representing nearly \$3,000,000,000. The number of employees on wages is over 600,000, the amount of wages paid out \$456,000,000, the value of the products over \$3,000,000,000. I believe that if this country continues to maintain a policy of moderate protection it will induce those engaged in the manufacturing business at the present time to enlarge their plants greatly, and that it will cause foreign capital to come to this country. I notice also that the estimated amount of American capital invested in manufacturing industries in Canada reaches the large sum of \$650,000,000. Canada is a very attractive country. I need not dwell on its natural resources, because they are familiar to all hon. members; but Canada has been so well advertised by this war that we are going to have a large number of immigrants from the country to the south, and I believe also, that there is going to be a large amount of capital come here from the same source. Therefore, I have no hesitation in placing myself on record, for one, as stating that the right and proper policy is not for us to adopt free trade but to adhere to the policy that has been ratified in this country by both parties, and to maintain for the future, as we have in the past, the policy of moderate protection. I believe it is best for the capitalist, best for the consumer, best for the farmer, and best for those engaged in the other great industries of fishing, lumbering, and mining. I believe that policy is best for all of Canada's interest; it has proven so in the past, I am sure that in the future it will prove to be a most wise policy. I do not know of any country, that has taken part in the recent war, that is thinking at the present time of reducing its revenue. I do not know what our neighbours to the south will do, but I hear rumours that notwithstanding their very high protective tariff they are contemplating making it still higher. It matters little to Canada what the countries of Europe may do; our friendly and aggressive neighbour to the south, the United States, is the one we must keep our eye on; and, therefore, it will be well for us to take a leaf out of their fiscal bible and maintain the tariff in the future as we have done in the past.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to say a word about export trade. I agree with one point

the hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster) made this afternoon, and that is the necessity of Canada expanding her trade and reaching out for foreign markets. Now is the opportune time for this country to do this. But I was amazed to hear the hon. gentleman—and I must give him credit for his frankness in putting himself clearly before the House and the country—say that he was opposed to the Government's shipbuilding programme, that he considers it a waste of public money. I, of course, take sharp issue with him on that ground; I do not consider the policy a waste of public money. I am the minister responsible for recommending to the Government the policy of creating a Canadian merchant marine. I think that policy is sound, the Government is of the same opinion, and I believe the large majority of the people of Canada also think so. The hon. gentleman overlooks the fact that a large transcontinental railway, such as the Government owns and operates at the present time, would be in a sad plight if it did not have ships to complete its transportation chain. The hon. gentleman apparently does not understand that Canada is in need of shipping very badly at the present time. Mr. Lloyd Harris, when he was overseas as a member of the trade commission, sent me a cablegram to that effect from London. He also stated in the press when he returned that the problem before Canada at the present time was one of shipping. If the Government had every one of the merchant ships for which it has planned—45 in number, with a total tonnage of 264,000 tons—in commission at the present time, we could use every one of them and more. Every day I have people coming to me begging for tonnage. And still the hon. gentleman states that the Government shipbuilding programme is an unwise policy and involves practically a reckless expenditure. No one finds fault with good old England, which is still supreme as far as her mercantile fleet is concerned, for looking after her own commercial interests first; and she would be the first to applaud one of her overseas dominions for following her example and looking after our own interests with the same keenness that the mother country herself does. What is the United Kingdom doing at the present time with regard to shipping coming to Canadian ports? She declares that seventy per cent of the available cargo space is reserved for the British Minister of Shipping. I would like the House to take note of this: only thirty per cent of