

have to find some other employment. When the munition factories stop, the thousand and one subsidiary operations which spread themselves through the length and breadth of the country, connected by more or less subtle threads with the dominant work of forming munitions of war, will also come to a standstill, and these two working together will bring about a period during which reversion to normal, adaptation to circumstances as they then exist, will eat up time, will confuse and disturb energy and will have its effect upon the economic condition and development of the country. These are the things that face us. Whilst we are glad to see the munition works doing their part in supplying the Empire with that which is necessary, whilst we are glad to have the money which comes as a sequence to the employment, yet all this is not beneficial and productive work and when it stops—yes, before it stops—well before it stops—the people of this country should be putting on their thinking caps, sizing up the situation and getting ready for the inevitable and important change that is to come. The first duty of this House and of the people of the country is simply to face that situation, to get right down before it, face it, think it out and be prepared with plans and organization as to what shall be done when the time arrives. That is the first duty of us all. In the next place, will you allow me, Mr. Speaker, to call your attention to another phase of the question, and that is: what are the practical things that can be done and to what extent are we doing these practical things?

And now I make an acknowledgment to the House: that is, that I feel the duty and necessity of saying a few words about my own department, the Department of Trade and Commerce. I have not projected that department nor myself before this House nor before the country; I have been very modest with reference to the work that was going on. I have come to the conclusion that I have been a little too modest and that maybe my department has not taken that place in the minds of hon. gentlemen to which it is rightly entitled. I do not speak in this way from any personal vanity, or any personal regret; but I would like the people of this country and the members of this House to know something of what we really have been doing; and I speak in order that my department may not only have their sympathy but also their active

help and co-operation. So, I know, Mr. Speaker, you will pardon the allusion that I am about to make to my own department.

One of the things that I think we ought to do, and may well do, is to take stock of the situation in Canada as it will probably be when peace comes. What is it in the Dominion of Canada that we shall consume, that we shall find necessary for our daily wants? To what extent can that be produced in Canada, and to what extent must we depend upon outside countries for these supplies? First—and I am not going to labour the point, for I wish to finish my remarks by six o'clock—I think that the thing we ought to do is to sit down and take stock of the resources and of the wants of the country. And with this idea—that, knowing what we require, and knowing how much is produced by ourselves at the present time, and for how much of it we have to depend upon foreign countries, we may, in a business way, set ourselves as Canadians to the solution of the problem of our wants. And I think the most accurate statistics that it is possible to have on that subject should be within the departments in Ottawa, and more especially within my own department, and should be there for the use of the House and of the business men of the country—information, comprehensive, accurate and fresh, as the foundation for the active work of dealing with this problem.

The next thing I think it is necessary for us to do, and which my department is trying to do, and I think is pretty effectively doing, is to find out in what fields outside of Canada goods that are made in Canada, and the products raised in Canada, may find sale and consumption. There are business enterprises and aggregations of capital which may better busy themselves with the home market of Canada, and with that only. There are other aggregations of enterprise and capital which may better busy themselves entirely in providing for the foreign markets. And there are other aggregations of capital and enterprise that may most economically combine both, and, making a base of the home market, extend their trade to the supply of foreign countries and thus diminish the incidence of overhead and general expenses upon their total trade. So, my department, while I have had charge of it—and as it commenced before, and I hope will continue—is particularly occupied with that problem.

Through what media? In the first place,