

War Appropriation Bill

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): I would not say definitely whether it was aeroplanes of that type, but the minister was on the platform and that telegram was read by the local candidate. I do not know whether it was the Minister of Finance; I rather believe it was the late Minister of National Defence, Mr. Rogers. I do not want to hold the Minister of Munitions and Supply responsible for that; all I ask, and all that the people of Amherst ask, is that we get results in accordance with the undertaking given prior to that time, at that time and since that time, under which very considerable expenditures were made by the town of Amherst.

Mr. HOWE: Since my hon. friend is making his demand perhaps I had better make mine. I would ask that the town of Amherst turn out the aeroplanes we have given them. At the moment there is a considerable pile-up of Anson machines awaiting assembly there. We need those machines very badly, and if my hon. friend could use his influence with the people he represents to have a few more men put to work in that plant so that these machines might be turned out, I should be greatly obliged.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That's right; if Canadian Car is at fault let us know about it.

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): The town of Amherst has made a splendid record in the assembling of these advanced training planes for the air force, but I believe that the work might be still further expedited. I am told that some of these planes lack the necessary engines and that other integral parts are missing. Until those parts are supplied the assembling of these aeroplanes cannot be completed. I believe this plant, and the citizens of the town of Amherst, have cooperated in every way possible; their record up to the present time is a splendid one, and they could do ten times the work of building aeroplanes that they have been permitted to do up to the present time. Again I say I do not want to censure or blame the department of the minister, but there has been great disappointment and many misgivings in my constituency, as well as all over Nova Scotia and the maritime provinces, because of the delay in carrying out the contemplated programme with respect to advanced training planes. The minister has promised an explanation of the delay, which I am awaiting anxiously. These planes represent a most urgent war necessity, and we down there want to do everything possible to expedite the carrying out of this programme.

[Mr. Howe.]

Mr. GREEN: Before the minister carries on I should like to put the picture before him with perhaps a little broader background. He has told us to-day that there are commitments totalling \$310,000,000 for plant and equipment in Canada to be financed partly by Great Britain and partly by Canada. The minister will admit that the great bulk of that plant and equipment is being put up in Ontario and the western portion of Quebec; the minister told me that in so many words last November. There may or may not have been good reasons for that at that time, but the fact is that because of this governmental policy the industries of Canada are being concentrated in central Canada, and the economy of this country is being made very lopsided. It was lopsided enough before, but this policy is making it just that much worse.

The minister told me a few minutes ago that there will be more commitments, and the impression I get is that there will be commitments amounting to many additional millions. I suggest to him that the time has come when this question of establishing war industries in Canada should be looked at from the point of view of the outlying parts of the country, both the maritimes on the east and the prairies and the Pacific coast province of British Columbia on the west. There is not so much work there; there is more unemployment. I do not need to go into the details. Hon. members know what it will mean to have these plants all operating in the central part of the country. Nothing would help the war effort of the nation more than to have the government announce as their policy that from now on they will locate many more plants in the eastern and western parts of Canada.

Mr. HOWE: No one is more anxious than I am to distribute plants, but when a study of plants is made, either for British account or for Canadian account, there are certain requirements that must be taken into consideration, and one of these is power—the source and the cost of power. My hon. friend (Mr. Hanson) is complaining about there being no plants in New Brunswick. I am trying to locate a plant there now and the only way is to get power transmitted from a power plant in Quebec to the area where the operations are to be carried on.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Where is that, Campbellton?

Mr. HOWE: Yes.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Of course Campbellton is not within the area in New Brunswick covered by the hydro scheme. We are developing power from slack coal at the