

consists of the Hon. A. E. Kemp, a member of the Government, and Messrs. Geo. F. Galt and H. Laporte. The order in council contains special provisions to safeguard the public interest, which I believe the House will find satisfactory when hon. gentlemen come to examine them. The responsibilities of that commission have been very great; I believe that they have been efficiently and conscientiously discharged, and that the public interest has been conserved and advanced by the step which we have thus taken.

The Government also appointed a commission, consisting of Sir Charles Davidson, an ex-chief justice of the province of Quebec, for the purpose of making inquiry into all matters attending the purchase of supplies and munitions for the Government of Canada since the outbreak of war. Sir Charles Davidson, a man of unquestioned ability, character, and experience, has taken up this task, and has carried it on with vigour. In consequence of his investigation, some prosecutions have been instituted, and at least one man has been convicted. The Commission has not yet made its report, but as soon as received, it will be laid upon the table of the House.

Before proceeding to England in July last, I brought to the attention of the council the importance of inquiring into certain matters which are of obvious urgency at the present time, and which will be of increased urgency after the conclusion of peace. An order in council, then passed, will be laid upon the table of the House, and it will show that the questions submitted to that Commission are of a very comprehensive character. They relate to improved methods of agricultural production, to increasing the acreage under production, to the settlement of the land, to bringing immigration of a suitable type for that purpose, to giving assistance to persons who may be inclined to come to Canada for that purpose, to co-operation among producers, to the distribution of products, and to the problems of transportation which are incident to that purpose. Special consideration is to be given to anticipated immigration after the war. My hon. friend the Minister of Public Works delivered a very cogent and impressive speech on that subject a few months ago. The commission is actively engaged in studying the several questions, and they intend to call to their assistance, whether in Canada or elsewhere, the best expert

opinion that they can obtain, and to give a complete and thorough investigation to these subjects, which we all agree, are of the greatest possible importance.

There was also appointed during the recess the Military Hospitals and Convalescent Homes Commission. I desire to express my very profound appreciation of the willingness, the eagerness of the Provincial Governments of Canada to co-operate with the Federal Government in that good work. All the Provincial Governments are, I think, represented on that commission, or have established commissions of their own, and the ancillary or assisting commissions in the various provinces of Canada are all working in co-operation with the main commission. I hope and believe that in this way the care of returned soldiers while invalided will be suitably provided for.

Now I come to my visit to Great Britain during the past summer. One of the objects which I had in mind in undertaking that mission was to ascertain from first hand information, as best I could, what might be the preparations of the Empire for winning this war by the organization of all its resources. I was given the fullest possible information by the ministers of the British Government. I recall with great appreciation the fact that for this purpose Mr. Lloyd George rose almost from a sick bed, while he was recuperating in the country after very prolonged and very exhausting labours. He came to London the day before I left Great Britain and discussed with me very frankly the whole situation. Mr. Lloyd George has made it clear in the speech to which I have alluded that opportunities may have been lost, but that there is still time to make good. He has stated that in May last while the Germans were turning out 250,000 shells per day, the greater part of them high explosives, the British were turning out 15,500 shells, of which only 2,500 were high explosive shells. High explosive shells were demanded most insistently by the generals at the front at that time. Production has been enormously increased and is still going on. It would not be proper for me to make public all that Mr. Lloyd George was good enough to confide to me. Those who have examined his speech will remember his statement that there are 33 national shell factories in Great Britain, and 100 factories in the hands of private firms; that the percentage of deliveries has