

information as to the requirements, wants, wishes and whims of the people of foreign countries. We cannot go on doing as some of the old English manufacturers did, and thrust our type of manufactures upon other countries. We have to study the markets, and give the people of other countries the line of goods, or the type of article, that they want, not the type that we want to give them. Therein lies the success of many of the manufacturers south of the line. They try to manufacture an article which is attractive to the people to whom they hope to sell, and that is where we have been lacking in Canada up to the present time. The Minister of Trade and Commerce proposes to rectify that chronic error in our industrial life, and to give the manufacturers of Canada an intelligent idea of what is required by the various foreign countries. In this regard I think he has done and is doing excellent work, and, instead of receiving the criticism and sneers which have fallen from the lips of my hon. friend from St. John in such unctuous terms, he should have received commendation and assistance. I noticed that when my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce was speaking, the hon. member for Rouville (Mr. Lemieux) seemed to respond, and I am under the impression that before this discussion ends, he will rise up to a little higher plane than his colleague from St. John, and will offer, on behalf of the Opposition, some real assistance and advice. It is not often that a minister of the Crown, Tory or Grit, comes to this house and says: I do not know it all, and I would be very glad to have your suggestions and constructive assistance. That is what the Minister of Trade and Commerce says, and, in view of his long experience, such a statement coming from him should have some effect upon hon. gentlemen opposite. I hope, Sir, that the results of the proposals will be that for once this session we can drop these picayune peccadillo politics and partisan views and indulge for a little while in a real discussion on commercial lines.

Hon. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX (Rouville): Mr. Speaker, I hope to not detain the House more than I should with the few remarks that I intend to offer. I am glad that in the speech delivered by my hon. friend from Vancouver (Mr. Stevens) he should have found at least one good feature in the observations of my hon. friend from St. John (Mr. Pugsley) a moment ago. As long as my hon. friend from St. John criticised the

[Mr. Stevens.]

Government mildly he was doing something very wrong, in the judgment of the hon. member for Vancouver; but when my hon. friend from St. John tackled the question of shipbuilding, then my hon. friend from Vancouver found that for his own province, for his own port, perhaps there was something more than rambling remarks in the speech of the hon. member for St. John—that there was in it something constructive which had been carefully evaded by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir George Foster).

Be that as it may, I wish to say at once that I have listened with great pleasure to the speech delivered this afternoon by the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I do not know if anything practical will result from the remarks he has made; I hope something practical will emerge from the discussion. The hon. gentleman will allow me to say what Lord Lytton said once of a great parliamentarian who, like the Minister of Trade and Commerce, was able to sway a public audience. After having listened to this great orator, Lord Lytton, in his poem, "Saint Stephens," described his eloquence as follows:

Then did I know what spells of infinite choice
To rouse or lull has the sweet human voice.

My hon. friend has the sweet human voice, and he has the peculiar faculty of winning the plaudits of those who are his fortunate listeners. But, Sir, this is not poetry, this is a trade. I expect, in spite of all, that something constructive will emerge from the statement he has made to-day. As he well said, this war will not last. I hope it will soon be ended and that it will end victoriously for the Allies. When this war is ended, new conditions will arise in this country and the world. The most important thing for us who are not in the fray, not in the trenches, is to do our duty, not only to our country, but to the Allies, by organizing the conditions which economically should help the Allies and ourselves.

Nothing can better help our country or our Allies at this juncture than the practical development of our trade. It is true that all our industrial plants are actually employed, it is true that there are war orders distributed from the Atlantic to the Pacific, but as was stated the other day in the House, this has brought about a fictitious prosperity in the country and my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce was right this afternoon when he warned us that this prosperity, being fictitious,