

on all the officials of the War Office, the Admiralty, and the other spending departments of the British Government.

Mr. GRAHAM: Anything that I say must not be construed as an unfavourable criticism of Sir George Perley, much less a condemnation of his business ability. Sir George went to London as High Commissioner, not as commercial agent. The duties of High Commissioner heretofore have been along lines entirely different from those now under discussion, and it would not be surprising if the High Commissioner, without the necessary machinery at his disposal, should not be able to accomplish everything we might expect of him as our representative. But the point is that we have an office in London, and that we have not supplied that office with the machinery necessary to meet all the requirements of industrial Canada. Shortly after the war broke out I met in Toronto a gentleman from western Ontario, who wanted to know to whom he should convey the information that he could supply certain things for the War Department. I tried to advise him as well as I could, but he said that he had approached without success the persons whose names I gave him.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Had he tried me?

Mr. GRAHAM: I think I did not give him my right hon. friend's name. Whatever we have done in the past, I think it is now time that we had in the city of London full machinery to meet the requirements of businessmen and manufacturers of Canada who have had and will have goods to export. The office of High Commissioner has always been, as it is now occupied by prominent men who have upheld the dignity of the Canadian people. That is well; but as a young nation depending largely upon the returns from our export trade for our advancement, we ought to have in our office in London the most practical machinery that we can arrange for. A Canadian who had occasion to visit the United States frequently since the war began would have the peculiar experience of meeting in that country Canadians with orders in their pockets from the various Allies, which they were trying to place with manufacturing concerns across the line. Had we had the necessary machinery these orders would have come through the High Commissioner's office, and would have come to Canada first. The fact that a Canadian got an order did not imply that that

[Sir Robert Borden.]

order would be filled by a Canadian manufacturer.

That gentleman, no matter whether he lived in Canada or not, would take that order where, perhaps, he could get the largest amount of commission out of the various allied countries. Men from our own country, not by the single individual, but by the score, have been in the great cities of the United States ever since the war broke out, handling orders from the Allies and from the British Government, that ought certainly first to have been offered to the Canadian manufacturer.

Mr. W. H. BENNETT: What was the nature of the orders received from the British Government that they were peddling over in the United States?

Mr. GRAHAM: They had orders for munitions of various kinds, and these were offered to and generally accepted by the United States manufacturer. I am not saying that I blame the Canadian for getting these goods manufactured in the United States as a pure business proposition, speaking of it in a cold-blooded way; but my contention is that if we have had the proper machinery attached to our High Commissioner's office, or, in an office by itself in London, these orders would have come through that business office, and the Canadian manufacturer would have had the first opportunity to fill the orders; then if he could not do so it would be his own fault. The other day I referred to the many millions of dollars' worth of orders placed in the United States, and it is no secret that some orders have first gone to the United States and have then come back to Canada. If proper steps had been taken we would not have had so many unfinished shells in Canada. Russia, I am informed, has a surplus of time fuses, or did have a few weeks ago. They were getting shells in the United States to be fitted with these time fuses, while we in Canada, an ally of Russia, have to make the empty shells without the time fuses. With proper organization these two parts would have been brought together, and the Allies would have had several more millions of rounds of ammunition complete, and the Canadian manufacturer would have had the benefit.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Were these time fuses manufactured in Russia?

Mr. GRAHAM: I am not sure. They had them on hand but had not a supply of