

which I have stated, that the French Government intends giving its orders to its own industries, and he has been satisfied with that. Is not that obviously the answer that he would get from the French Government? If France can place orders for its own railways, its public works, and so on, with its own industries, is it not obvious that it would do so in order to give work to its people and to help to re-establish those millions of soldiers who are returning from the front?

But when the French Government has said that and done that, all is not said and done. Mr. Lloyd Harris thinks that is the last word of the French people; but orders can be had from other French sources. I will ask you, honourable gentlemen, if the Canadian Government were sending a delegation to England or Scotland, to try to stimulate trade between Canada and Great Britain, and if the delegation were composed of Canadians who did not speak a word of English, how would such an appointment be received by this Chamber? I wonder how such a delegation would be received in England? And yet this is what is done by the Government in approaching the formidable problem of the reconstruction of northern France. One-quarter of the population of this country speaks French, but it was not judged useful to draw on that part of the population and to utilize whatever talents were to be found there in order to help the obtaining of orders from France. When the French Government says that it will want to place orders in its own industries it only speaks of its own action. But there are in France large divisions of territory, called Departments, each of which covers five or six counties. Each Department has an elected council, which levies considerable imposts. There are also "les conseils d'arrondissements," resembling our county councils, and municipal councils for towns and cities. According to information which I have received from France, these institutions will be utilized to help in the reconstruction of the towns and cities. The individual will not be left to try to obtain for himself what he needs. Hundreds of thousands of men in France will be looking for materials. The French Government will furnish the money, but will not probably do any direct purchasing. It will leave to those departmental councils, county councils, and municipalities the task of co-ordinating the work and placing the orders in France or abroad.

Now, is it to be thought for one moment that France, which imported largely in peace times, will cease to import? Is it to be thought for one moment that France, whose rich industrial areas in the north have been absolutely paralysed and destroyed, will produce sufficiently to meet its own needs? France will import twenty times as much as it used to import—perhaps fifty times as much; and I am convinced that, if our Canadian Government, even at this late hour, utilized the services of the proper men to negotiate with those various organizations, men who know France and its methods, we should get orders enough to keep all our mills going. I venture to predict that the United States, with all their agencies that are at work and that have been at work for a long time—for the United States have had men on the spot for the past two years at least—will get all the orders that they can handle in connection with the rebuilding of France.

Hon. P. A. CHOQUETTE: Will the honourable gentleman permit me to give him a piece of information just at this moment with reference to orders coming from France to this country? I saw ten days ago an official letter from the Department of Agriculture of France stating that they were willing to buy in this country, and at once, all the agricultural implements that Canada could furnish to them, and to buy all the butter and cheese that we were willing to send to them. The party who received that letter—which was seen by the honourable gentleman from the Gulf (Hon. Mr. L'Espérance)—came to Ottawa to ascertain whether it was possible to get shipping accommodation, and he was told that this was impossible. He could not ship to France even fifty tons of goods, such as ploughs and other agricultural implements. So the problem for the Government is to furnish shipping accommodation.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I have stated that the United States will get orders amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars for the rebuilding of France, and I venture to affirm that if the Canadian Government will attend to this matter as any private corporation or individual would, enough orders can be had from France and Belgium to keep all our industries going, thus helping to re-establish our civilian and military population. I am convinced that if the Federal Government will send, to join the Harris Commission, two or three members of the Woods Commis-