

have supplied just as well as the United States. I think the remarks of my hon. friend from Pictou were very timely and very much to the point, and I trust the Government will take them in good part, and will see if in the future something more and something better cannot be accomplished than has been accomplished during the last year. I can quite understand, as the right hon. the Prime Minister says, that during the first six months of the war things were upside down, and probably none of the Governments knew exactly where they were. But during the last year, and especially during the last six months, this has not been the case. And from this time on—and we may have this war going on for another year, or two or three years—if the Government will be alive they can accomplish more than any private individual, no matter how good a salesman, can accomplish. We should be able to obtain a good big percentage of the orders given by Russia, France and Italy, to say nothing about Great Britain. I have no doubt that, so far as British orders are concerned, if we can fill them, and fill them at right prices, we can get a good share. But I think we ought to get a good share, a bigger share than before the orders from the allied countries.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I hope the hon. gentleman (Mr. Turriff) will not place too great reliance upon reports he sees in newspapers. If on one occasion at least on fifty occasions since the outbreak of war indignant telegrams have been sent to me about rumours of huge orders for this, that, or the other class of goods, placed in the United States that could have been placed in Canada. I am quite sure that in at least ninety per cent of the cases, and I believe in ninety-five per cent, upon my sending a telegram to inquire the reason for this and why Canada had been overlooked, I found that there was no truth whatever in the newspaper statement. In almost every case where rumours of that kind were brought by us to the attention of the British Government, either directly through the Governor General or through Sir George Perley, that was the reply. I am really at a loss to know what more could have been done by a Government than has been done by the present Government since the outbreak of the war. I have made it a matter of personal attention. On many occasions, during my visit to England last summer I made it my business to go per-

[Mr. Turriff.]

sonally and see not only the responsible minister, not only the permanent head of the department, but the head of the particular branch that had to do with the ordering of supplies in this country, with the result, as I have said, that I had the definite specific and absolute assurance that, in cases where these supplies could be obtained in Canada, Canada would receive the preference. If any hon. gentleman on the other side of the House can give me any instance where that assurance has not been carried out during the past six or seven months, since that promise was made to me, I shall be very glad to have my attention directed to the instance, and I shall certainly bring the subject to the attention of the British Government without any delay.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: It seems to me that my right hon. friend has not at all apprehended the force of the remarks that have been made by the hon. member for Pictou. The High Commissioner for Canada in London discharges in ordinary times duties of a diplomatic as well as of a business nature. Perhaps the exceptional nature of the events that have occurred in connection with the war have justified the view of my right hon. friend that it would be desirable to have one of his colleagues at the seat of Imperial Government. The business in connection with work of a diplomatic nature has been increased tenfold by the war, and I find no fault with my right hon. friend's having in London one of his colleagues to represent the Canadian Government. I do not wish to say anything as to the character of the services which Sir George Perley has rendered, because they have been largely confidential, and we have not had any report of his operations. One thing, however, is apparent to everybody: if, in addition to Sir George Perley, who might properly have given the greater part of his time and attention to our diplomatic relations with the British Government, there had been at the High Commissioner's office in London a wide-awake, up-to-date business man, Sir George Perley would still have had his hands full in attending to the matters which came before him for consideration. I am sure that under these circumstances Sir George Perley, even if he did his best, could have rendered more valuable service. If this be the case, it would seem that the sooner some capable person is appointed to this position the better it will be for the country.