

friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce and he characterized my hon. friend the Minister of Militia and Defence as being somewhat pessimistic. He added to-day his own opinion to the effect that the Germans were getting the better of this war. I do not agree with him for one moment. I do not believe he could find, if he were in a position to canvass the opinion of the people of Germany, that even they would agree with him. They do not think they are getting the better of the war. In a great war there are three factors which must be taken into consideration—men, money and munitions. If the war is short you may exclude the question of money and assume that both parties to the war will have enough, but if the war continues for any length of time, money will be a factor and money is one of the most important things in this war. At the beginning Germany had it over France, Russia and England in so far as men and munitions were concerned. That is the reason why she was able to make the wonderful advance she did make on the eastern front as well as on the western front, but during the last six or eight months the situation has entirely changed. While it is true that the line is practically where it was some months ago—

Mr. TURRIFF: That is all I said.

Mr. EDWARDS: But the hon. gentleman left an impression that I want to dissipate if I can. While it is true that the line is practically where it was a few months ago, it is also true that the Germans have not been able to carry on their offensive and advance on the western front, because in the meantime, or within the last few months, England and France have been enabled, not only to bring up men, but to bring up munitions, and in men and munitions, they are on an equality with Germany and are holding her there. The same thing is true of the eastern front as regards the contest between Russia and Germany. If you look at the whole situation, notwithstanding that Germany holds most of the Belgian territory which she has taken, notwithstanding that she temporarily holds her position in France and has overrun Serbia, the position of Germany and Austria in this war has become gloomier. While that is the condition on land, that is not the only phase of the question. The greatest blow which has been struck at Germany in this war has been struck by the British Navy in tying up the German Navy behind the

forts of Kiel, in scattering German commerce and in driving it from the seas.

The hon. gentleman spoke of the British vessels which had been sunk by German torpedoes, and he intimates that possibly—if this continues, we may not have enough vessels to take our wheat—where, did he say?—not to the United States, but to take our wheat across to England. No matter what the price might be, we must have enough vessels, he says, to take our wheat across to England. If that is true for us, it will be true for the United States too. They would not have any chance to take their wheat across. Will the hon. member for Assiniboia get up and say that in a case like that, if we had not access to the British market, our natural market for wheat would be in the United States, where they would have millions and millions of bushels tied up that they could not get out to the markets of the world? Will he argue that? If he will not argue that, how can he logically maintain his position? But, while my hon. friend speaks about the possibility of boats being sunk, why is it that our Canadian wheat and the wheat of the western farmers is getting across the ocean to the markets of the world? It is because Britain has freedom upon the sea; it is because the British Navy rules the sea, and I cannot sit down without reminding the hon. member for Assiniboia that he was one of the men who stood up in this House and did his part to prevent the Dominion of Canada from making that navy stronger than it is to-day, and assisting it to protect our products on the way from Canada to the markets of the world.

Mr. GRAHAM: Mr. Speaker, this debate seems to have got away from everybody, or everybody seems to have got away from it. My hon. friend who has just sat down (Mr. Edwards) has discussed the Navy. I do not think he has missed any question that has been up in the House during the last year. I intend to make a few remarks on the proposal of my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir George Foster) in reference to the development of the trade of Canada and the machinery he proposes to use. I was once asked, while discussing the departments of the Canadian Government with the then Prime Minister, what department I considered the most important. I did not mention the Finance Department, I did not mention the Department of Agriculture, although these are very important, but I said to him that I thought the