

supply that food and those munitions. I understood the Minister of Trade and Commerce to intimate that the British Government was now able to produce all the munitions it required within its own territory. I am afraid my right hon. friend will have to admit that that is not correct. The British Government is purchasing munitions very largely in the United States at the present time.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: It will depend, as my hon. friend knows, on the definition of "munitions." We are discussing the munitions supplied in Canada for the British Government. There are types and varieties. Of those types and varieties Great Britain is not purchasing in other countries but there are other munitions of war which Canada cannot supply, which Great Britain cannot supply to the extent needed, and which she does get from other countries, notably from the United States. But our argument here is in reference to munitions of the types and varieties that have been made in this country. That is plain ground upon which we can approach the discussion of the question.

Mr. OLIVER: Precisely. We want to know what the facts are. It narrows down to this: Given Canadian ability to finance the purchase of munitions in Canada and given adaptability on the part of the Canadian manufacturers to produce the kind of munitions the British Government requires and to adapt their present plants and facilities to the production of these munitions, there is no necessity for the shutting down of these munition factories in Canada. If that is the fact, I submit it is up to the Government to see that Canada does finance the British Government to the extent of the purchases of these munitions, and it is up to the manufacturers of Canada to make such alterations in their plants as would enable them to supply the kinds of munitions that the British Government want.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I want to put this consideration to my honourable friend. If Great Britain is so situated that by keeping her own capital within her own borders and by employing her own people in her own industries, she can make all that is necessary, and more, of these munitions for the conduct of the war, is it economically a good thing to come to Canada, have these made here and distribute the money from her own country for that purpose in the present condition of the world's finances?

[Mr. Oliver.]

Or is it better that as she is in a position to make more than is necessary of those kinds of munitions required for the war, she should conserve her financial resources, and ours in co-operation with her, for the supply to her of what is absolutely necessary but what she cannot supply and of which Canada produces a surplus? I think there is an argument that my hon. friend will be inclined to take up.

Mr. OLIVER: I would be quite willing to accept it if that were the position, but it does not happen to be the position. The British Government, as I understand it, is buying a large quantity of munitions from the United States. My right hon. friend has admitted that, but he says they are of a different class from those manufactured by Canada. Well, then it is up to us to manufacture in Canada what the British Government wants.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: If my hon. friend takes that position, will he go to the practical men in steel, in iron and other industries and ask them whether they are prepared to put capital into their establishments and machinery necessary to equip these establishments to make the kind of munitions of war which are being made in the United States and which Great Britain gets there—great guns and that kind of machinery? My hon. friend would find that there is no shadow of a chance of initiating such industries as these in Canada at this time.

Mr. OLIVER: I think there is every chance, if we have an enterprising and capable lot of people engaged in the manufacture of munitions. They were able, in the earlier stages of the war, to change from the manufacture of one kind of shell to another, which they did, and if they made that change I do not see why they could not make still another if it were necessary to keep the business in this country so that we would get the benefit of it. My right hon. friend must know from the reports in the press that many of the men who have been discharged from the closed-down munition factories in Canada have gone across the line and are making munitions in the munition plants in the United States, and, I presume, making the same identical class of munitions.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: If my hon. friend will allow me to get at the facts of the case. He knows, too, that within six months the United States has embarked in the great war, and she is equipping two