

representatives to France to attend the Exposition de Lyon. My hon. friend properly said that, as only a section of Canada was represented in that delegation, he could not at the present time see his way clear to granting the request. I agree with him. There is something more urgent than the Exposition de Lyon. I understand that a commission composed of business men will visit France, and possibly the other allied countries, in order to systematically promote better trade relations.

But I wish to draw his attention to a matter which I regard as of greater importance. There is at present in France, a movement on foot towards the reconstruction of cities and towns that have been destroyed during the war. I hold in my hand the programme of a large and important committee which has been formed in France in order to organize a Reconstruction Exposition. This Reconstruction Exposition is under the high patronage of the president of the French Republic, and the ministries of commerce, industry, postal and telegraph service, agriculture, interior, public instruction and arts, the general council of the Seine and the Municipal Council of Paris. It is to be held in Paris during the months of May, June and July, 1916. What is the object of the Exposition? I wish I could address myself to the industrial communities of Canada and to our manufacturers, in order to impress them with the importance of that Exposition. It will advertise to the world what are at the present moment the needs of France for the reconstruction of its devastated cities, towns and villages.

The Americans have not been slow in responding to the call which has been made to them by the committee to which I have just alluded. American manufacturers have formed a national committee, and they are preparing to send out delegations to all those engaged in industrial activities in order to capture as far as possible the trade which that reconstruction will necessarily create. The exposition will open on May 16 in the Terrace of the Tuileries Gardens and in the halls of the Jeu de Paume, which the ministry has been good enough to place at the disposal of the exhibitors. The programme is to be divided into four groups. In the first group will be found the essential organs of a modern town, the plan for arrangement and extension, and plans for reconstruction, everything concerning the æsthetics and hygiene

of a city, the precautions to be taken with a view to the absolute respect of local styles, the variety of which lends such charm to French towns, the preservation of historic monuments and of any particularly beautiful natural site, etc. The second group will contain buildings in general, public edifices, dwelling houses and rural and industrial construction. In the third group will appear modern methods of and materials for construction, with examples of what has been achieved. Lastly, the fourth group will be specially devoted to legislation governing the arrangement, the construction, the improvement, and the beautifying of cities. The American manufacturers know that their chance is there, and quick as they are to realize their opportunities, they have launched an appeal to the business men. I wish that that appeal had also been made by my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce to the Canadian manufacturers. I claim that our Canadian manufacturers, Tories as they are generally—

Mr. GRAHAM: Oh, not all.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Not all—are keen, progressive, capable, and quite able to hold their own against the American manufacturers. I hope that my hon. friend will yet make a special appeal to them, so that they may get their share in the immense reconstruction business which France expects within the next few years. Let me quote just a few paragraphs from the appeal made by the American manufacturers:

We regard this as the greatest opportunity American manufacturers ever had to establish themselves in the commerce of Europe. The habitations of 35 millions of people are more or less damaged or destroyed and everything must be replaced. The highways are destroyed, the streets of cities are destroyed, all the public service systems, such as water, sewerage, gas light, electric light have been destroyed, factories, dwellings, farms, everything. The labourers need every kind of tools and implements by the millions, used in building and refurbishing these institutions. Furthermore, the neutral countries have been in the habit of buying from countries now engaged in war, and their markets are entirely bare. These countries find themselves not independent, and each one is seeking to make it so.

Hence they all want to get vast quantities of up to date machinery to manufacture the things they formerly have gotten from the countries now at war. It will require the full capacity of all the American factories for many years to meet these needs, provided they exhibit samples here that are satisfactory to the buyer. I may add that the American goods are more popular in Europe than any other, but it is practically impossible to get them.