

minister should have given us very much more information than he has given and he should have assured the people of Canada that the manufacture of munitions would not be curtailed, much less put an end to, and that all the munitions which are to be made on this side of the Atlantic for the British Government would be made in Canada instead of being made in the United States.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: My hon. friend has twice made the statement that whilst the order has gone forth that the manufacture of munitions for the British army would not be continued in Canada, they are continuing to purchase similar munitions in the United States. Is my hon. friend sure of his ground? My information is absolutely to the contrary.

Mr. GERMAN: The report which goes forth to the country, whether correct or incorrect, is that the British Government will purchase their munitions in the United States and that the manufacture of munitions in Canada, if not wholly done away with, will be curtailed to a practically infinitesimal amount.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: By taking up that report and taking it as true, if he does not know that it is true, my hon. friend puts behind it the responsibility of a member of Parliament. Perhaps I might go a little farther and say to my hon. friend that if there be any such report as that it is absolutely unfounded.

Mr. GERMAN: The circumstances of the situation do not appear to show that it is unfounded, because the manufacture of munitions in Canada is being very largely curtailed.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: The manufacture of similar munitions for the British Government in the United States was curtailed months ago. Contracts that were entered into were dissolved and no new contracts have been entered into.

Mr. GERMAN: Whether or not the statement which my right hon. friend makes is correct—and I will not deny that it is correct—we know that the manufacturers of munitions in Canada are being told that they will not have an opportunity of supplying these munitions in the future as in the past, whereas, at the same time, the manufacture of munitions in the United States is being carried on to a very large extent. Whether correct or incorrect, the

[Mr. German.]

report is that the British Government will be purchasing more munitions in the United States, because they can get credit there and they cannot get credit in Canada.

If that report is incorrect, then this discussion is well brought before us to-day, because it will be a very excellent opportunity for the Government to explain the whole situation, that the people may know just where they stand and what is likely to happen. We cannot afford to allow the industries which since the war broke out have been really the back-bone of this country, to be cut down or curtailed, if it is at all possible to maintain them by any action of this Government in supplying larger credits to Great Britain. That is the whole question. If we can provide the credit up to the extent that munitions can be supplied in Canada as well as they are being supplied in the United States, then our industries will get the benefit. It behooves the Government at this time to take great care that our financial situation is such that we can maintain a credit here which will result in the maintenance of those industries which have been in existence during these years, and which we hope will continue during the remainder of the war.

Mr. G. W. KYTE, (Richmond): I desire to say a word or two upon this subject, because a very considerable—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, Oh.

Mr. KYTE: I am sorry to see that some of my hon. friends on the other side are like the Minister of Trade and Commerce in not considering this a very important question.

An hon. MEMBER: You do not, either.

Mr. KYTE: It is a very important question. A large proportion of the population in eastern Nova Scotia has been engaged in the manufacture of munitions during the last three years. I might recall to the House the condition of affairs which existed as regards unemployment in Canada previous to the outbreak of the war. We know that in the large cities, from 1912 to 1914 there was a very severe condition of unemployment. We also know that in the city of Ottawa, in the very shadow of the Parliament Buildings, a procession of 500 unemployed men walked to the City Hall and demanded that provision be made by the city for the support and maintenance of their families, as a result of their inability to secure remunerative work. At