

nected with a war. It was pointed out, and I think quite properly—I am not anxious to get into a controversy—that to take the profit out of war there would have to be the complete socialization of all industries, large and small. When that was suggested, the hon. member said it would suit him.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I do not know that I said that, but I should like to ask the minister whether wheat and other foodstuffs would be included in this section?

Mr. ILSLEY: The answer is yes. Under paragraph (b) the governor in council takes the power to prohibit, restrict or control the exportation, generally or to any destination, of provisions or any sort of victual which may be used as food by man or beast.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Would that mean that a man could not grow wheat without a licence?

Mr. ILSLEY: It does not mean that.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: May I ask what it does mean?

Mr. ILSLEY: This legislation is permissive only. It will be up to the governor in council to state whether a licence or permit shall be required. This authorizes the governor in council to restrict or control the exportation of food.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: That is clear. Should a crisis occur, the government could take the power of not allowing our farmers to grow wheat without a licence.

Mr. ILSLEY: It says nothing about growing.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: To sell.

Mr. ILSLEY: Under this legislation they have the power to prohibit, restrict or control the export of wheat, not the growing.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I think the minister will concede that only in the most extreme circumstances would the government undertake to prohibit the export of foodstuffs. I think the minister will agree also that munitions are in a different category from foodstuffs and have always been so regarded. It seemed to me that there was an evasion or side-tracking of the main issue when this question of food was brought up. I know that everything in the world is related to everything else, but most of us know what we mean when we speak about armaments and materials of war. My presentation to-day is limited to what are generally known as munitions and materials of war. I ask that they be taken out of the category of things from which men can make fortunes

[Mr. Woodsworth.]

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: For some months past an interdepartmental committee has been going very carefully into the whole question of the control of profits with respect to munitions of war. That committee has been working in conjunction with members of the government. The line upon which we have been proceeding is to attempt to draw a distinction between war materials produced in times of peace and what may be necessary in times of war. Unquestionably special legislation would be required in times of war. At the present time, in a time of peace, the government is proceeding on the theory of permitting competition with reasonable remuneration, the work to be subject to inspection and audit. Different forms of control have been suggested by the departments. Members of the interdepartmental committee are working together with a view to effecting just what my hon. friend has in mind. I can assure him that the whole question is one to which the government is giving careful consideration, and that it will continue to do so. We agree with him in asserting the principle that no profits should be made out of war.

Mr. BENNETT: As such.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Has the government any policy with regard to the matter I mentioned, that is the export to friendly warring nations?—of course, we would not be exporting to an enemy nation—or to neutrals? Is there any line of policy that the government intends to follow with regard to these matters? We have dealt with one particular case, that of Spain, but no general policy has been laid down so far.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Some of these matters are better dealt with as the situations arise. For example, with respect to Spain, there was no difficulty in determining exactly what in the public interest was most advisable. However, to state in advance the principle which would govern with respect to situations, as they may affect different countries at different times is something which might not be wholly wise. This is especially so where the general policy is one of seeking an effective control.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Will a report be made to parliament covering the production, transportation and exportation of war materials? Will the facts be given to the public?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: All I can say at the moment is that when the estimates of departments affected are being considered, we shall seek to give the desired information so