

country. There is no room for scolding, for fault-finding, for bitterness or misunderstanding between the Board and the manufacturers of this country, and there *is* none. (Applause.) You will realize that in the shells which we are producing there is no law of average governing quality. Every shell that is made has to be sufficient in itself for the duty which it has to perform. You may have 999 shells excellently made, and if the one thousandth shell has been treated in such a manner that a "premature" takes place, which may destroy the gun and the crew, or which, because of shortage in distance, may destroy some of your own men, the fact that 999 were right will not relieve you from the penalty of the thousandth shell, and what I attempted to say in Toronto the other day was that I had seen in a great bonded warehouse where shells are inspected and passed upon when there is suspicion concerning them, I had seen shells from Canada which would not have left the shop of the manufacturer if there had been proper shop inspection; and I was surprised to see the headline in the paper the next day, "The Shells from Canada are a Failure." I could have told my newspaper friend, if he had asked me, that in the same bonded warehouse I saw shells from English factories and from United States factories, as well as from Canadian factories. That is to say, you will never get away from the element of human weakness. You can never entirely exclude the human quality, and shells will pass first shop inspection and afterwards Government inspection and will be faulty. Men are killed at the Front because of them; men do die that should not die, because of these faults. The moral that I sought to point, which the manufacturers who were present will bear out, was that there was no average which was satisfactory, but that as far as human judgment and wisdom and effort could assist each manufacturer must seek to produce shells free from faults. I would like to say on behalf of the manufacturers, what may surprise you in the form in which Mr. McKenna stated it the other day when he was speaking at a lunch which was given in honour of the Hon. Mr. White; he said, "Who would have supposed that Canada should have sent to the Front, or have in process of training to go to the Front, more men than we sent altogether to South Africa in a struggle in which we thought we