

brass brushes, shaving brushes, paraffin candles, pick axes, picketing points, picketing posts, shovels, anti-toxin, water bottles, bacon, cheese, flour, fowl, oats, preserved meats, dried vegetables, great coats, trousers, coats (sheepskin lined), cotton drawers, fingerless gloves, leather mitts, rubber boots, travelling kitchens, wagons, horse collars and a very great variety of other goods. This was up to last July. Since then, we have had a statement of further orders placed. I may read a selection of some of these: Cables, munition boxes, cartridge cases, finders, trinitrotoluene—a new product in Canada—folding axes, hand-axes, hammer-headed axes, barbed wire, forgings, helms, leather goods, musical instruments—particularly bass and side drums—nails, shovels, bacon, cheese, flour, hay, oats, dried vegetables, rubber boots—a very large number—suction hose, cardigans, woollen drawers, socks, under-vests, shoe-packs, and a great many other articles with which I need not worry the Committee.

I am as anxious as any hon. gentleman in this House to see full justice done by the British Government and the allied governments to the resources of Canada. I am convinced that the British Government is giving us every consideration possible. That is the statement that was made to me last summer. The correspondence, as I have said, is largely of a confidential character, but perhaps I may be allowed to quote a sentence, if the House will pardon me for not laying the letter on the table. This letter is a summary of a great many communications made orally and in writing by the spending departments of the British Government. At the end of what I shall quote is a reference to the exchange difficulty, which was very great at that time. I hope hon. gentlemen will bear in mind, in connection not only with the British but with the Russian Government, that the exchange question presented very great difficulty, and as is well known, the arrangements made for a loan in the United States were partly designed to meet this difficulty. I quote:

Whenever it is found necessary to place an order abroad, it is and will be the settled practice of my department to give Canadian producers the first opportunity of tendering, but our purchases abroad must obviously be limited by our ability to pay for them.

That part of the sentence relates to the difficulty with regard to exchange, which was much more serious at that time than it is now. The pledge which was made to

me in that letter and in letters from other departments of the British Government, has, I think, been honestly carried out. I think it has always been the desire of the British Government to give every possible consideration to our industries. I am inclined to think that in the early weeks of the war orders may have been given on this continent in the belief that they were being filled by Canadian manufacturers, when, as a matter of fact, they were being filled by people on the other side of the line. I hope hon. gentlemen will appreciate the enormous task that was imposed upon all departments of the British Government when this war broke out. There is, perhaps, a little more routine in those departments than in our own; and up to that time they had been filling their military and naval requirements almost wholly, I think, in the British Islands. In the stress, hurry and confusion of the awful events which were precipitated in August and which have continued ever since, one would not wonder, perhaps, that the officials of these two great departments should select some large company in the United States to fill an order which had to be filled at once, without giving that consideration which we might have expected they would give to the resources of this country. I thoroughly believe that the officials of all the departments of the British Government were not at all aware of the extent of Canada's industrial resources when this war broke out, and in that respect I entirely agree with my hon. friend. I think, however, that my hon. friend should be satisfied that I have taken every possible means to impress upon them since the war broke out the extent of our industrial resources, and I know that Sir George Perley has done so. By means of telegrams, despatches, and oral conversations with the various officials of the British Government, we have sought to impress upon them in the most vigorous way what we are capable of producing in Canada, and I do believe that at the present time they are pretty well seized of our capabilities. Every official of the British Government who has come here during the past eight or nine months—and there have been many of them, from the War Office and from the Admiralty—has freely admitted that the manufacturing industries of Canada are much more extensively developed than they had previously realized. It is that point of view which we have endeavoured with a good deal of success, I think, to impress