

omy. How often has he told his colleagues that he abhorred extravagance and believed in economy? The Estimates brought down to this Parliament in these war times amount to the enormous sum of \$189,000,000. Think of it, Sir, an estimated expenditure of \$189,000,000 in a country with a population of about 8,000,000. Can we believe for a single moment that the Minister of Trade and Commerce can sit dumb while his colleagues are putting forward demands upon the treasury of this country for millions and millions of dollars? If my hon. friend had sought to use his influence—and he could use it if he tried—he ought to have been able to produce a different result, and it would not have been necessary for him to take a slap back at his colleagues twice during this session when he talked about economy and insisted upon the necessity of a more rigid supervision over the expenditure of public moneys. In that veiled manner my hon. friend has made two strong attacks upon his colleagues in the Government.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I regret to notice that the questions which have been so ably presented by my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce do not seem to attract that attention on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite that one would expect. Therefore I would hardly hope, in view of the slim attendance of hon. gentlemen opposite, that the things which he has presented will command their very deep or earnest consideration. I had hoped that some one or more hon. gentlemen opposite would have taken advantage of the occasion to rise in their places and express their views in regard to the proposed economies which have been so ably presented to the House by the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I regret to have to observe that in my opinion he would find very little support from that side of the House. These young gentlemen—these young spendthrifts—who are sitting on the treasury benches beside my respected friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce do not seem to have the same regard for the sacredness of the treasury, or the necessity of saving public moneys, as has the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

The matters which have been presented are very important; but in this connection I cannot help observing that we have had

two extraordinary and rather contradictory speeches from the treasury benches this afternoon. My hon. friend the Minister of Militia and Defence (Sir Sam Hughes), in which I think I am quite right in describing as the extraordinary statement he made to the House, deplored the fact that Germany had been so successful in this war that she had added 55,000,000 of population to her dominions, that she had acquired a number of countries, such as Serbia, Poland and Galicia, and that now she had a splendidly equipped railway running from Berlin to Constantinople. The hon. gentleman appealed to the members of this House, in tones which seemed to show how deeply he was affected, and he deplored the fact that in this dreadful state of affairs two hundred members of this House were wasting time on such piffle as the question of the waste of some \$80,000,000 in connection with the purchase of shells and the taking of large commissions in connection with the letting of the most improvident contracts which were given in the United States for fuses. He seemed to feel that the end of the war was by no means in sight, but that the question was so serious that the representatives of the people should not be discussing questions which ordinarily would engage their attention, but that they ought to be overlooking the faults of the Shell Committee, the Minister of Militia, and the members of the Government, sacrificing their own views as to whether it is right and proper, and giving their whole assistance to the Government in carrying on the war.

My hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce, on the other hand, takes a roseate view of the situation. He has a vision that enables him to see the end of the war. The hon. gentleman is so pleased with the prospect that he even contemplates calling together the business men, manufacturers, and other classes of people of Canada in the very near future. He is going to have a great banquet in the city of Ottawa, I presume, in connection with the convention he proposes to hold. Well, it is a roseate view that my hon. friend seems to have, and I can picture the delightful time that they will have at that convention and banquet. It would be worth going 3,000 miles even to hear the eloquent speech which my hon. friend will deliver on that occasion.

Mr. REID: Hear, hear.

Mr. PUGSLEY: It certainly would.