

respectively. The number of board feet of lumber produced in 1939 was three billion, nine hundred million compared with four billion, nine hundred million at the war-time peak. This increase was achieved despite severe labour shortages. The increase in the manufacturing of chemicals and allied products is estimated at 233 per cent. One of the most noteworthy achievements in this field has been the development of a highly successful synthetic rubber industry. Synthetic rubber is now being delivered from the government-owned plant to commercial markets at a rate in excess of forty thousand tons a year. The expansion of industrial capacity and particularly the production of aluminum to meet war requirements, has resulted in an expansion of the installed capacity of central electric stations from 7.5 million horse-power in 1939 to 9.6 million horse-power to-day.

This unprecedented expansion of productive capacity has resulted in manufacturing becoming the leading industry of the country, and what is perhaps more significant, Canadian manufacturing for the first time has been placed on a production rather than on an assembly basis. Products hitherto partly or wholly imported, or never produced at all, have been made in Canada. These include automobile, ship and aircraft components, radio and radar equipment, machine tools and many other items of industrial equipment. At peak production, there were one million, one hundred and eighty-six thousand employed in direct and indirect war industry, or one in every twelve persons of our population.

In citing these figures of our production record in the war years, I should like to pay tribute to the men and women of Canadian industry, whether they be in the ranks of management or of labour, who have made this magnificent achievement possible. As we look back over the past six years, the degree of harmony which has existed between management and labour is truly remarkable. We know now the results that such cooperation can bring. I am confident that we will have the same success in solving our reconversion problems if we carry over into the post-war era this same spirit of cooperation and understanding.

In closing, I should like to say something also of those who have worked with me in the direction of the war production programme. At the high point of our programme, the Department of Munitions and Supply comprised twenty-seven crown companies engaged in a wide variety of undertakings, twelve controllers serving on the wartime

[Mr. Howe.]

industries control board, the various directors general in charge of production and the legal and general administrative staff of the department. For the most part, the senior personnel of the Department of Munitions and Supply were recruited from business and industry. All of these men came to Ottawa at considerable sacrifice, and a number of them served here without any remuneration whatever. I cannot speak too highly of the loyalty and devotion they have given to their respective tasks. If our contribution of munitions and war supplies has gained for Canada a new place as an industrial nation, it is due in large measure to their industry and vision.

Mr. MACDONNELL: I am sure there is no one in this house who has not been not only interested in, but greatly impressed with, the figures which we have heard giving the remarkable record of the department over which the minister has presided during the years of the war. I am sure there is no one who wishes to be grudging in recognition of the work that has been done by him and others. There is no disposition on our part to show anything of that spirit at all. At the same time, I take it that we have reached the turn of events where difficulties which did not exist during the war now face us. In war time, as I said on another occasion, no question was raised as to the amounts spent; all we wanted was to get production as much and as fast as we could. Now, on the other hand, we have to face the difficult task of retrenching. The minister has already told us that he expects the part of the work of the department over which he has been presiding particularly, and which has been so active during the war years, to fade away and disappear, so that we are left with a department which will gradually shift over from the munitions and supply side to the reconstruction side. I take it that we shall have occasion to discuss that later on when the minister moves for setting up the new double departments and therefore I shall say nothing more about it now. But I shall expect and welcome the fact that we shall be given a great deal more information about how things have been going and are going and are likely to go than was possible in war time.

In war time the magic word "security" was a barrier to a great many questions, many of them no doubt questions which security demanded should not be asked, while others perhaps were questions the answering of which might not perhaps have greatly