

we must expect further shutting down of munitions plants in Canada. Now, whether or not we on this side of the House have spoken disparagingly of the men who have been carrying on these munitions enterprises because of the vast and unreasonable profit they have been permitted to make, has nothing whatever to do with the question of the investment of legitimate capital or the employment of legitimate industry in the conduct of those enterprises. We are entitled to pay heed to the question whether the enormous flow of money that has kept these industries in Canada going during the past year or two is to be stopped or whether it is to continue. If I gathered correctly what my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Sir Thomas White) said, that flow of money is going to stop.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: What made my hon. friend think that?

Mr. OLIVER: I beg my hon. friend's pardon, I meant the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir George Foster).

Sir THOMAS WHITE: I made the express statement that we were paying now more per month than we had ever done in the past, and that we had arranged to pay \$25,000,000 a month to the Imperial treasury for munitions during October, November and December, and hoped to continue during the war.

Mr. OLIVER: That being the case, the question of financing does not enter into the matter of the withdrawal of the orders for munitions.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: It does enter into it.

Mr. OLIVER: I gather from the remarks of the Minister of Trade and Commerce that the withdrawal of munitions orders from Canada had much to do with the question of finance—British finance and Canadian finance.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: For larger amount, yes.

Mr. OLIVER: I am unable to correlate the arguments of my two hon. friends. I am to understand that we have the statement of the Minister of Finance that the orders are not being withdrawn because of any failure to finance on the part of Canada?

Mr. THOMAS WHITE: The statement I made was that we are continuing the payments which we have made monthly and that they have even been increased

during July, August and September. But the point I was making when I interrupted my hon. friend was that if you had a fifty-million-a-month situation and Great Britain had to consider the purchase not only of munitions but of cheese, hogs and wheat, of course, there would be financial considerations entering into it.

Mr. OLIVER: As Great Britain has to purchase wheat, cheese and bacon as well as munitions—

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Where would she get the money?

Mr. OLIVER: I say that as she has to purchase wheat, cheese and bacon as well the question of finance does enter into it.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: It does enter into it in regard to all her purchases, of course.

Mr. OLIVER: I gathered from what the Minister of Trade and Commerce said that owing to the tremendous burden carried by the British Empire because of the war her financial resources were becoming diminished to such an extent that her purchases in Canada depended upon the ability of the Canadian Government to finance these purchases.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: To a certain extent.

Mr. OLIVER: I understood the Minister of Trade and Commerce to make that statement. If I am not right in that I wish to be corrected because all I want to get out of this discussion is the facts of the case. These facts are pressing; they are important. I desire in a moment to say something on another matter which comes very much more closely home to my part of the country. But as far as munitions are concerned it all rests upon the point that the business done by the British Government in Canada depends on the ability of Canada to finance that business.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Partly.

Mr. OLIVER: If it does, and if this business is being withdrawn from Canada, it is not because the munitions are not needed. Munitions are needed as much as they ever were and as far as I can see there is no reasonable prospect that they will not be needed for an indefinite period. The British Government must get munitions from somewhere and they must get food from somewhere. The financial condition being as it is, if Canada cannot finance the British Government for the food and munitions required from Canada, then Canada cannot