

of the measure under consideration. But if the Government is looking after the interests of the people—as this is a time when the hearts of all the English-speaking people of the world beat in accord, a time when we have the sympathy of the English-speaking people of all America, this might be a proper time for the Government to approach the Government of the United States to see if they would not remove the embargo upon potatoes entering their country from Canada. There is no other thing that the Government could do that would be of such advantage to the farmers of the Maritime provinces, but particularly Prince Edward Island, and I think it would be of considerable advantage also to poor people in the cities and towns of the New-England States. If the Government thought this the time to take some action in regard to this matter I believe it would be very wise for them to do so.

The Government or the Department of Militia sent inquiries to people in Prince Edward Island for quotations on butter and hay. I do not wish to say one word that would have the appearance of party politics; but I think these inquiries were sent only to friends of the Government—that is my information. They may have sent to some officials there, and the officials may not have circulated these inquiries generally. However, I am quite satisfied of this, that if the people of Prince Edward Island are afforded the privilege of supplying anything asked for at this time they will supply it free of commission, free of middlemen's charges. I would suggest that the Government, in making purchases, should extend to the whole of the people the privilege of offering the supplies that they have on hand.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The question how to utilize the resources of the whole Empire in the best interests of all portions of the Empire is, of course, a very important one. We shall give the best consideration we can to the suggestions of my hon. friend, and take such action as may seem proper and reasonable under the circumstances.

Mr. MACDONALD: I have noticed in the press a statement that a proposal of some kind has emanated from Toronto, and that on behalf of that proposal a delegation has waited upon the Government, submitting to them a method, on definite and positive lines, to obviate the lack of employment which is anticipated throughout the country. I may say that in our province to-day

we are threatened with unemployment through the discharge of a large number of men, particularly men connected with the steel industry. These workingmen have not had a good summer, and, as they have been employed in special work for which they cannot find a substitute elsewhere, I am afraid that a most difficult situation is likely to arise. If the plan suggested by the gentleman from Toronto is of such a character as to meet with the good opinion of the Government, perhaps the Prime Minister could tell us what idea, if any, the Government has with a view to preparing for such a contingency.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Certain gentlemen from Toronto had an informal conference with myself and some other members of the Government. Their idea is a very good one; the question is as to the best way of working it out. The idea is that the businessmen, manufacturers, labouring men, and producers of Canada should establish some organized method of co-operation with a view of meeting as far as possible the problem of non-employment, which threatens a great many people in Canada, as the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald) has observed. We listened to what these gentlemen had to say, and expressed appreciation of the interest which they took in a subject which gravely concerns the Dominion at the present time. We asked them to think over their proposal, to put it in a little more definite form, if they could, and to come back to us after the conclusion of the session, when we could take the matter up with better opportunity to devote time and attention to it than when they came to us.

Mr. MURPHY: May I ask the right hon. gentleman if he has received any representations on the subject from the representatives of organized labour?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Yes, I had a conference of some considerable length last evening with gentlemen representing organized labour. I found them disposed, as these other gentlemen are, to co-operate in every way for the purpose of alleviating the conditions of distress which are apprehended in some parts of the country.

Mr. CARROLL: I wish to bring to the attention of the Government the fact that we have at the present time a very serious situation in the steel works in the city of Sydney. I have no doubt that representations have already been made to the Gov-