

in a period of two months to meet the requirements of the Imperial treasury in its purchase of munitions and supplies in this country, and when, in order to do that, I went to New York and faced the interest conditions which I was obliged to face there, and floated a loan of \$100,000,000, I was never criticised more severely by the hon. member for Pictou and other hon. gentlemen opposite. That was done in order that the Imperial Government might be supplied with money for the purchase of munitions, cheese and other supplies from this country. In war time you face war conditions, pay war rates of interest, and war rates of commissions. The Dominion Government has used every effort in order to meet the huge financial requirements of the Imperial treasury in making purchases of munitions and other supplies in this country. That has been our policy, and that will be our policy.

There was no reason why this motion should be put forward, because the munitions industry is not by any means threatened with effacement. The Dominion Government is paying to the Imperial Munitions Board every month more than it has ever paid in preceding months, and we propose to continue the policy which will give to Great Britain the shells which it requires and which can be made in this country. But it must be borne in mind that the Dominion Government and this Parliament have a large family. There is not only the manufacturer of munitions to be considered, but the farmer, with his cheese, and hogs and other foodstuffs. All these things must be considered in connection with the financial programme of the Imperial treasury and the assistance which will be afforded by the Dominion Government.

Mr. W. M. GERMAN (Welland): I have not very much to say on the question now before the House, but it does seem to me that the remarks of the Minister of Finance amply justify the motion of my hon. friend from Pictou. If the only result of this discussion were to clear up the situation and give to the people of this country the information which they desire on this matter, my hon. friend would have been more than justified in making his motion.

I cannot quite appreciate the argument of the Minister of Finance. He has stated that Canada is continually paying out hundreds of millions of dollars to aid the British treasury. But we all know that Great Britain is paying out hundreds of millions

of dollars continually for the upkeep of our troops in France and Flanders and Great Britain, and we, therefore, are simply discharging a debt which we owe to Great Britain for the upkeep of our soldiers. The question resolves itself into this: It is stated that the manufacture of munitions in Canada is to be stopped, and that the manufacture of munitions in the United States is to be continued, because the British Government can get munitions in the United States on credit, but cannot get them here on credit, as apparently Canada is not able to finance the munitions industry. Canada up to the present time has done nothing more than meet its obligations to Great Britain for the upkeep of our army in Great Britain and France, and has hardly done that. The minister has not yet explained to the House, on this or any other occasion, whether our munitions factories are to be maintained in the position which they have occupied in the past, and which we hope they will maintain in the future. As was stated at the opening of this discussion by the leader of the Opposition, the munitions factories in Canada are about the only factories that are really profit-earning institutions at the present time. So far as the Niagara district is concerned, in the town of Welland we have four large munitions factories, all of which are on an excellent financial basis. These factories have all expended large sums in extending their plant and putting in new machinery, and up to the present they have not made enormous profits, even though prices have been high.

If the manufacture of munitions is shut off in Canada, these institutions instead of being profit-earning institutions, will practically be operating at a loss. It will be a very great disaster to Canada, not only in that particular section, but all over Canada, if the manufacture of munitions is cut down. As far as I am able to judge, there is no reason why munitions should not be manufactured in Canada as well as in the United States. There is no reason why they should not all be manufactured in Canada instead of any of them being manufactured in the United States, inasmuch as it is a question of the credit that can be given by the Canadian or the United States Governments. Our Government is very expert in preparing legislation for franchise, and voters' lists Acts for winning elections, apparently, but they are not so astute in preparing legislation to protect the industries of this country in this time of strife and trouble. The