

of these contracts to supply munitions have not been given a fair opportunity such as they had a right to expect in tendering on some of those contracts, and I wish to bring this matter to the attention of the Government in order that they may take it into consideration, and see if it is not possible to do more in the way of organizing the resources of this country, so that a greater result may be obtained than we are obtaining at the present time.

The country is to be congratulated on the splendid harvest in the Northwest last year. Owing to the harvest the people have been placed in a very much better position than they were a year ago, and have been able to overcome the difficulties against which they had been struggling. But on the question of transportation in the West there is a considerable feeling that something should be done at the present time to help out the situation. On the Pacific coast to-day the lumbermen especially are receiving orders for lumber which they are unable to fill, because they have not the necessary transportation facilities. The same condition has prevailed with regard to other products of the country which people have not been able to ship, not because they were not ready, not because the people were not ready to sell them, but because they could not get the necessary transportation at the proper season. My hon. friend to my right says the same thing has occurred on the Atlantic coast, but I understand that to some extent the Government has relieved that situation by arrangements made with the British Government, but as far as I know up to the present, nothing has been done to relieve the situation on the Pacific, and I hope that if the Government possibly can, they will turn their attention to this matter, and see if they cannot do something to relieve the situation. The points that I have raised in this matter are raised with the intention of pointing out the Government the questions that are interesting the people. Members of the Opposition at ordinary times would be free to criticise the Government without reserve, but to-day their great desire is to render every assistance possible to the Government in prosecuting the work which has fallen upon their shoulders with regard to this war. We are all one in our desire to do the very utmost we can for the benefit of the country, and to help in every way possible to bring this terrible war to a speedy conclusion, so that there may be no doubt as to the final ending of it, and that peace may be brought to

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the world at large; but at the same time we have to remember that it is the duty of the Opposition to criticise and point out where they think better action could be taken, or where improvement could be made in the details of handling the policy the Government are pursuing, and therefore they propose to offer in the most friendly spirit and the best manner they can, a just and fair criticism of the work of the Government. The sole aim at the present time is to contribute as far as possible to the victory of the Allies over the Germans, so that the Belgians, Serbians, and Montenegrins may have their countries restored to them, and that France may recover the territory at present held by Germany.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I have great pleasure in congratulating the mover and seconder of the Address in reply to the speech from the Throne on the admirable manner in which they have performed the duties assigned to them. The Senate is to be congratulated upon the addition to its members of the two gentlemen to whom we have listened with so much pleasure. The hon. gentleman who has moved the Address is recognized as one of our ablest parliamentarians, and his long experience in the House of Commons, as well as his comprehensive knowledge of parliamentary practice and history, will prove of great assistance to this body. The hon. gentleman who has seconded the Address is well known in the public life of his native province. He has been prominent for a number of years in the public activities of the province of Quebec, and his appointment to membership in this Chamber will be a valuable acquisition to our members. We welcome these gentlemen to the Senate, and bespeak for them many years of usefulness in the public service.

The speech from the Throne is very much limited in the subjects with which it deals. It might be said that only two subjects are presented to us for our consideration; one, the extension of the life of Parliament, and the other financial and other legislation dealing with the war in which we are engaged.

In speaking of the measure which it is proposed to submit for your consideration dealing with the extension of the life of Parliament, I need scarcely add that this is a measure which is entirely the outcome of public sentiment which has been expressed in the country on the undesirability of bringing on a general election while we