

honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Bostock) has criticized the Government; and we know it has been freely criticized throughout the country and in the press. I think it was Lloyd George who very tritely said a Union Government has no friends: it lacks the party affiliations which go to create an esprit de corps, and the sympathy and support which party governments invariably receive.

This Government has been a little over two years in office and in that time has been called upon to assume and discharge public duties and obligations beyond all expectation. I do not purpose to attempt to enumerate its many achievements. Suffice it to say, that in no case has the Government failed to rise equal to the unprecedented difficulties and problems it has been called upon to face. The burden of carrying on the war was cast upon its shoulders; which in itself was incomparably beyond the obligation cast upon any former government. This was coupled with even more difficult problems, namely, the demobilization of nearly half a million men, their transportation from the battlefields of Europe across the Atlantic ocean, and then, after reaching the shores of Canada, the transportation of almost half of them across this continent. This in itself is an achievement of which any government might well boast.

Demobilization involved not only the return of our forces and a large proportion of their dependents, but the even more difficult problems of making provision for the hospitalization and the care and treatment of the disabled, the establishment of an adequate pension system, and the devising of schemes for assisting the disabled, as well as other classes, in again becoming self-supporting and able to contribute to the volume of our industrial production. The assimilation of this number of men in a population as small as we have in Canada was a problem that in the press and on the platform was heralded far and wide as almost insoluble; and yet we may felicitate ourselves that in about twelve months we have not only successfully carried out the transportation of our troops from Europe to our own country, but that we have established more successfully than any of our Allies schemes and systems which have to do with re-establishing our troops in civil life and again placing them on the footing of citizenship. Not only in these great problems, namely, the carrying on of Canada's part in the war, the demobilization of our troops and the absorbing of them in

civil life, but in the financing of the war to the extent of nearly two billions of dollars has this Government proved equal to the obligation with which it was charged.

The financing of Canada's part in the war within our own boundaries was an undertaking in itself which at one time we thought impossible. The success of the last loan, which we floated in Canada a few months ago, and of which nearly seven hundred million was subscribed, stands to-day as the greatest tribute to Canada's patriotism, prosperity and resourcefulness. Moreover, it bespeaks the confidence of the people of Canada in the Government that placed the loan on the market and is charged with administering its expenditure.

The Government has been equal to the many other problems brought about by the war. It has dealt, probably more successfully than any of our Allies have done, with the many abstruse problems of labour and the dangerous unrest which during the last two years has found expression in our large centres. We can say with confidence that Canada to-day in its freedom from unrest and labour difficulties, is far in advance of either the United States or Great Britain.

The Government has been attacked in the country and in the press for not having done anything. I have read criticism after criticism; I have read denunciation after denunciation by the opponents of the Government; but I have yet to learn of any concrete charge brought against it by reason of its inability to grapple with any problem with which it has been faced; and I challenge any of my hon. friends opposite to point to a concrete instance in which the Government has failed to rise to the occasion. My hon. friend the leader of the Opposition has referred to the failure of the Board of Commerce to carry out a certain order which it at one time made. The fixing of prices is one of the most difficult problems that the Government has been called upon to face. It practically means the setting at defiance of the economic laws. Not only here, but in the United States and Great Britain, tribunals have been appointed to grapple with this question; and I venture to say that what has been done here will bear investigation, will reflect credit upon the board, and will establish the fact that the Government made no mistake in creating the board.

Canadian trade is improving and growing by leaps and bounds, notwithstanding the almost insurmountable difficulties that we have been called upon to face. The present fiscal year will find our exports and imports

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