

way in which it is being done? There is great criticism of the action of that board on the coast at the present time. I think it is only right to call the attention of the Government to the matter, so that if they are not in a position to deal with the Imperial Munitions Board and to represent to them that this matter is not being handled satisfactorily, they can call upon the Government of Great Britain to take hold of the matter and deal with it as I think it should be dealt with; because when the people are called upon to pay increased taxation and to save their money for the purpose of enabling the Government to get the financial assistance that is necessary, they will and do criticise very severely any loose or extravagant method. And, as time goes on and the Government has to raise further money throughout the country, they will find that this question will be brought before them, and it may have an effect upon the raising of that money.

In the building of wooden ships there seems to be no reason why a company should not go directly to the lumber yard and get the required material without employing other people to act as go-betweens. It is general knowledge that when you employ individuals to purchase goods for you you have to pay commission, which raises the cost of the material to the man who has to use it. That and other points in connection with this shipbuilding industry certainly require looking into. We want to see this industry well established in this country, both on the Atlantic and on the Pacific. I think we have the resources and the materials, and we are getting the men together and training them; so that not only at the present time, but when the war is over, the shipbuilding industry will be on a thoroughly sound and well-established basis in Canada, and will be a great source of revenue to the country. At the present time, under the policy that has been pursued by the Imperial Munitions Board, certain firms have been handicapped and could not compete with the board in building ships because of the way that money was spent.

The whole country was very much shocked when it heard the news of the terrible disaster which took place at Halifax. The Speech from the Throne referred to further legislation which will be brought down for the purpose of providing relief for the people who were injured in that terrible disaster. The sympathy of the people of Canada, and of people throughout the world in general, went out to the citizens of Hal-

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ifax. Persons who have been accustomed to seeing the terrible destruction which is going on in Europe at the present time on the fighting front have stated that the destruction and horror of the Halifax disaster were worse than anything they saw in Flanders. We shall be only too glad to do anything to assist in alleviating the distress which has arisen; and, although I am not aware that information has been given out to that effect, we hope that the conditions have been thoroughly looked into, and regulations made, so that no disaster of the kind can occur again. When these munition ships are being moved about and are calling at certain ports, it is desirable that every precaution should be taken so that they cannot come into collision as happened at Halifax. Every endeavour should be made to see that no disaster of this nature can occur again, and, further, that, if possible, those responsible for this terrible disaster should be brought to book. There must have been some carelessness on the part of somebody to have caused the collision which led to the disaster.

I join with my honourable friend from Red Deer (Hon. Mr. Michener) in his remarks about immigration. We require immigrants who are qualified to take up the work of the country and are prepared to take their stand as good citizens of Canada. I fear that in the past a large number of people who have come to this country have not had the proper education and have not been of the right kind to make such citizens as we want. I hope that the minister who has been appointed to the portfolio of Immigration—a man who knows well the requirements of the country—will use every endeavour to see that in the future we get the class of immigrants that will make thoroughly good citizens and will help us to develop those natural resources which are going to be the mainstay of this country in the near future.

The other matters dealt with in the Speech from the Throne will be referred to later on, and it is not my intention to take up the time of the House any further, except to congratulate the Government upon the businesslike way in which they have started the work of this session. I hope this will continue so that we may put through the work of Parliament as expeditiously as possible, so that the members may return to the different parts of the country and do their share in the work that awaits them. At the present time everybody throughout this country has so much to do, and is so vitally interested in