

in a non-partisan way, but in a manner which showed that he has given the problem the deepest consideration from a national and economic standpoint. In terms entirely free from partisanship he invited the co-operation of the House, and particularly of the leading members of the Opposition, whose experience has made their advice valuable, to co-operate with him and with the Government and the House generally, in an attempt to solve these enormous problems. My hon. friend from St. John (Mr. Pugsley) a few moments ago took to task hon. gentlemen on this side of the House because we did not rise in support of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. But, Sir, the hon. member himself was actually wiggling in his seat for three or four minutes before my hon. friend concluded his remarks, and was on his feet before the hon. minister had actually taken his seat. I hasten to take this opportunity of expressing not only my approval, but my gratitude to the minister for introducing the subject in the manner he has. In my estimation there is no greater problem facing the Dominion of Canada to-day than the problem of what we are going to do to reorganize the nation's industrial and commercial life after the conclusion of this war. My hon. friend from St. John says that when these young men come back from the front, with the training and discipline which results naturally from a military life, they will again fall back into their places in the industrial life of Canada. This is the first time I have heard, in recent times, from the lips of an hon. gentleman claiming the experience, and at the same time having to a large extent the respect, shall I say, of the people of Canada, for his ability at least, such a sentiment as that. The hon. gentleman knows, if he knows anything at all, that when there is a disruption of trade caused by a great war lasting for a period of years, men do not fall back into their places again. If he wants a few examples I shall give him some that occurred during the few months prior to the opening of the session. Between September and January, there returned to my city a large number of men wounded and incapacitated for further military service. Three particular cases which came to my notice impressed on my mind the gravity of this problem, which the hon. member laughs at and brushes to one side as a simple proposition. The first was a young bank clerk who returned from the

front to Vancouver. He came to my office and asked what would be done for him. I asked him what he did before the war. He said he was a clerk in such and such a bank. I said: There should be very little difficulty in your going back to your old position. He said that he did not want to go back to the bank, that he was out of the bank now and never wanted to go banking or clerking again; he wanted an outside job. Would my hon. friend thrust that man back into his former position? My hon. friend knows that the mere fact of this man having served the Empire would arouse sympathy for him if any such attempt were made. Then a young man came to my office and I asked him the same question. He said he was a farmer. I said: That is splendid, because I know where there is a demand for young men on farms. He said: Not much, I have had all the farming I want, I want a city job.

Mr. PUGSLEY: He must have been after a Government job.

Mr. STEVENS: He was after a Government job; and I may tell my hon. friend that I recommended him and about 30 others for Government jobs. And further to gratify my hon. friend in his little gibe, I have adopted the policy in Vancouver that no one but a returned soldier gets a Government job, and, if my hon. friend does not agree with that policy, he may as well say so. So far as patronage is concerned, if that is what the hon. gentleman wants to introduce at this time, I would not give a snap of my fingers if all the patronage in my riding were undertaken tomorrow by a commission. Patronage has no attraction for me; it is the curse of public life. But that is the situation and the facts, that these men come back to Canada with their former ideas disrupted and changed; they have been taken out of the ruts they were in before and they are going to demand a different outlook in life. The return of 250,000 or 300,000 of these men will have a very serious effect upon the affairs of the country, and so I say that, in my estimation, the greatest problem facing Canada to-day is the problem of re-adjustment at the conclusion of the war. The hon. member for St. John says: Oh, let us wait, there is lots of time to deal with this, let us first win the war. Oh, he says: I would sooner sit in this House and expose graft than indulge in the consideration of such profound economic