

George Perley is, I say that High Commissioner's Office is totally and absolutely inadequate to deal with the representation of Canada's possibilities in connection with this war. Any one who has been on the other side will agree with me in that statement. I am urging, not upon any small ground, but upon the ground that it is in the interest of the whole country, that Canada should be properly represented in Great Britain. One does not need to recriminate in a discussion of this kind and I am not recriminating; I am simply stating that it is alleged in the press and that it is stated in the Shell Committee's report, that the War Office does not know what Canada can do; that it believed that we could not make shells and that it had to send Mr. Carnegie over here to tell us how to make them. The same is true of almost every other industry. I am as strong a British subject as any man, but I am also a Canadian, and I realize, as any hon. gentleman who has visited the other side must, that there is a long road to go in order to teach officialdom, and many people in Great Britain, just what Canada's possibilities are. Hon. gentlemen in after-dinner speeches will utter splendid sentences, and editors will write lengthy editorials in regard to these problems, but when you come down to the business end of the matter, Canada, if she is going to take her share in furnishing the supplies required to help out the Empire in this war, should have and must have adequate business representation in the High Commissioner's Office; or if not, the history of the first six months of the war, as detailed in this report will be repeated every six months until this war is over, and this great country to the south of us, whose rather apathetic interest in regard to the grave issues involved in the war has become the wonderment of the civilized world, will go on doing as it did during the first six months of the war, that is, taking many more millions of dollars for orders than Canada is receiving. I urge this matter upon the Prime Minister in all seriousness; I believe the importance of the business interests of this country requires this urging which I am attempting to make.

I assert that the High Commissioner should have a business organization representing this country which should gather from governmental and other sources full and complete and adequate information in regard to the possibilities of Canada, and

that this should be available at all times so as to enable the High Commissioner to put his hand at any moment on information in regard to the furnishing of any supplies that the War Office may need from time to time.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: My hon. friend speaks of the lack of knowledge on the part of the British authorities as to the capability of Canada to manufacture shells.

Mr. MACDONALD: This report does.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: As a matter of fact, my hon. friend did not know that Canada could manufacture shells.

Mr. MACDONALD: Oh, yes.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Further than that, if he did know it, he knew more than the manufacturers themselves knew, because it was with the greatest possible difficulty in the first instance that they were persuaded to undertake the task of manufacturing, not shells, but shell cases, in Canada. At first, there was a great question as to the production of shells here, and it is to a gentleman in my hon. friend's constituency, Col. Cantley, that credit is due for making it apparent to the British Government that we could produce in this country steel which was perfectly well adapted for the purpose of manufacturing these shells, and the steel has to a very great extent been produced in Canada. It is all very well to look at conditions as they are to-day, but in order to understand conditions as they were when the war broke out, we must realize not only that the British Government did not know the capability of Canada to do a great many things that it is doing to-day, but the manufacturers of Canada themselves did not realize the capabilities of Canadian industries to do a great deal of what is being done in this country to-day. When that capacity was once demonstrated, the Government was insistent, in season and out of season, in urging, not only on the British Government, but on the Allied Governments, the resources of this country to produce food supplies and also manufactured articles necessary for the war. I said to my hon. friend this afternoon that there was a distinct engagement—I have it in writing under my hand—that whenever any articles required by the British Government could be produced in Canada, application would be first made to Canada. I have asked for any instance during the past six months in which the purchasing