

manufacture of munitions was a mere trifle; that we had plenty of money to keep these industries going.

He had hardly sat down when the Minister of Trade and Commerce took the floor and told us that the money we had to spend had better be spent in another way, namely, in purchasing food that was to be sent over to the other side, and that the cutting down of the production of munitions was not because they were not required, but because we did not have the money with which to buy them. We have reached a point at which the people of this country who have been engaged in the production of shells, which are so much needed for the Empire, must stop that work because the moneys of this country have been so squandered in other directions that we have not the capacity to come to the assistance of Great Britain in this connection. That is the conclusion and the argument made by the hon. member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) and not contradicted by hon. gentlemen opposite. Let me remind the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Trade and Commerce that if we are hard up for money, or if we need to economize in the expenditure of money, there is nothing which would give such a black eye to this country as to fall short in anything that is necessary for the carrying on of the war. We are told that we must purchase the Canadian Northern railway because to do otherwise might destroy the credit of this country. Anything that might happen to the Canadian Northern in the way of financing is a mere drop in the bucket, as compared with the great disaster to the reputation of this country that would follow our not doing everything we can in the prosecution of the war. If the choice is between putting \$600,000,000 into buying munitions of war, bacon, cheese, wheat and everything else necessary to carry on the war properly and support our men at the front and supply our Allies with food and other things they want, and putting \$600,000,000 into the Canadian Northern, I say: let us drop the Canadian Northern; let it get along the best way it can, and if it must go into the hands of a receiver, it is not the first enterprise of that kind that has found its way there; and let us pledge the country to that extent towards the carrying on of the war and furnishing the munitions and other supplies necessary to support the Mother Country in this desperate struggle.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce said that we on this side of the House be-

littled the efforts of Canada. I have not heard anybody on this side of the House belittling those efforts. I do not remember any one doing so. The financial effort of Canada has been magnificent. We are proud of the financial position we have taken and sustained. We hope we shall be able to continue to finance for the war and for the necessities of the Mother Country as we have done in the past. There is no man on this side of the House who has raised a finger against small effort, or great effort or any effort, put forward by the Minister of Finance to secure the requisite moneys for the part that we have taken in this war. Where is the truth in the statement made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce that we belittled those efforts or that we obstructed and impeded the measures taken to sustain this great country of ours in the war? Nothing could be further from the facts than the statement made by the minister. The Minister of Trade and Commerce has to-day made statements which are quite capable of giving comfort to the enemy in regard to the financial condition of this country. He told the world—and I do not think there was any necessity for it—that Great Britain was at the breaking point and strained to the last inch in connection with the financing of the war. I do not believe that. I do not believe that Canada is at or near the breaking point. There are in the banks of this country hundreds of millions of dollars owned by the people of this country, and if the requirements call for taking it out of the banks and giving it to the Minister of Finance in order to put it into the war, the people of Canada will rise in their might and hand over the money rather than that the status of this country should suffer for one moment on account of the need for money. We in Canada have scarcely been touched in regard to our true capacity in connection with the war, and it is not necessary for the Minister of Trade and Commerce to give comfort to our enemies to-day. It will be stated, I suppose, in Germany to-morrow that the Minister of Trade and Commerce of Canada, a knight, the Right Hon. Sir George Foster, said in the Canadian House of Commons that England was strained to the last inch and casting about perplexed as to how she could finance the war. That will be the encouraging news our enemies will receive to-morrow from a speech made in this House of Commons by a member of this Government. If anybody on this side of the House were