

unemployment. It seems to me that the Government itself, being the largest employer in the Dominion of Canada, should set a good example; in fact, it controls more money and can more easily obtain money than private institutions. I think that, as far as possible, in order to alleviate distress and help on the work of the country, legitimate public works ought to be gone on with.

Reference was also made to the employment of foreigners in Westmorland while our own people were out of employment. I do not know what the circumstances of that particular case were, but I know that very often contractors and others are obliged to employ foreigners to do certain classes of work that our own people refuse to do. I sometimes wonder if our people are as diligent as they should be, and if they avail themselves of all their opportunities in connection with public works and similar undertakings.

Some reference was also made to the distribution of contracts for war materials. I have not looked very closely into this matter, but, from what I can gather, the contracts for war materials have been distributed over the country amongst the various firms who manufacture such materials without any discrimination. I think the Government, under the strain to which they were subjected and being under the necessity of providing many of these things in such a hurry, were obliged, even if they had not been so disposed, to give these contracts out almost indiscriminately. I think it was wise for them to do so, because, while manufacturers may be on one side of politics or the other, they employ men of all classes and all shades of politics. I think from a business standpoint that it would be well not to discriminate, and I believe there has not been any discrimination.

Something has been said of public criticism. It is well for us, even as political parties in this House, to be careful of criticism that goes out before the public. It is sometimes very hurtful. We have now before a Committee of this House an investigation into the matter of boots supplied to the soldiers. I have no doubt that when the investigation has been completed there will be very little fault to be found; yet from an international standpoint, that investigation has been very hurtful, and I have no doubt that Canadian manufacturers have suffered in consequence. The Governments of France and Russia and perhaps other countries which might have made purchases in this country will refrain from

[Mr. Ball.]

doing so owing to the reputation that has been given to the Canadian boot. There are many matters such as this which are international in character, in handling which we ought to be very careful and discreet. Of course, the Opposition must investigate where there are real reasons for doing so, but to my mind there have never seemed to be much cause for this investigation.

The hon. gentleman referred to the tariff as it affects his locality, that is, the province of New Brunswick. This is one broad Dominion, and it seems to me very difficult to enact a general tariff that will not strike somebody unfairly. For instance, in Ontario, and I presume in western Quebec, we have to bring bituminous coal from the other side and have had to pay a duty on it of 53 cents per ton. In addition to that there will be the $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent further duty as war tax. I presume this duty is imposed in order to protect the Nova Scotia coal mines. I have heard very little complaint of that. Canada being a broad Dominion, it is very difficult to legislate for particular localities.

Reference was also made to the supposed clashing of interests between farmers and manufacturers. I was very much pleased at the remarks of the hon. member for East Huron (Mr. Bowman) last night on this subject. I see no reason why there should be any conflict or rivalry between the farmers and the manufacturers of this country. They should co-operate. In fact, in Ontario there is very little of that feeling. I believe that the farmers appreciate the advantages which they derive from the presence of manufacturing in their districts, and the manufacturers appreciate the presence of the farmer. A great deal has been said on this subject by western members who seem to have a feeling of antagonism towards the manufacturers of the East. The same spirit does not prevail in Ontario, as far as I have been able to learn; we are glad to know that the West is prospering and has good prospects, and we are sorry to find any depression there. There should be mutual good will over the whole Dominion in these matters; there is no reason why one section of the people should be stirred up in antagonism towards another section of the people. The proper way for this country to prosper is on the line of co-operation. I have no doubt that before many years there will be manufacturing industries in the West. Winnipeg to-day has a great many industries, and there are industries in many of the larger towns farther west. The farmers