

the High Commissioner's office, that we should have more Canadians on the staff; that now, before it is too late—and it is even more imperative on account of the war—there should be an immediate re-organization of the High Commissioner's office along business lines. We have been told in this House, and it is being said in the country, that when this war is over we may look forward to a period of prosperity. I hope that is true; the Minister of Trade and Commerce, however, expressed very grave doubt that it would prove to be true. We can be sure of this, however: so long as the war lasts, and perhaps for some years afterwards, Great Britain will be a big buying nation. Why should she not be induced to buy more supplies in Canada? It is all very well to say to business men in this country: send your private representative over to England. Men engaged in business in Canada have sent their own representatives over there; but they have always had difficulty in obtaining an entry into the proper quarters, on account of the red tape which always ensues from long-settled officialdom. Notwithstanding the personal regard we all have for Sir George Perley, I want to urge upon the Prime Minister the necessity of an immediate re-organization of the High Commissioner's office. We should have in London a business department, representing the business people of Canada, and prepared to say to the properly constituted authorities over there, Canada can do this, that and the other thing. I reiterate that the feeling among the business interests of this country is that greater energy should have been displayed by the Government in dealing with this matter. If Canada's facilities had been brought to the attention of the British Government, millions of dollars that have gone to the United States would have been spent in Canada.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: My hon. friend has made some assertions that are entirely without warrant, as I can assure him. He takes it for granted—I do not know for what reason—that no representations have been made to the British Government nor to any of the Allied Governments—perhaps he did not go that far—as to the facilities in Canada for providing the supplies required for the war. He was never more mistaken in his life than when he made such an assertion, because from the very earliest weeks of the war up to the present time, the Government has repeatedly both by letter and by cablegram brought our

[Mr. Macdonald.]

resources to the attention not only of the British Government, but of the Allied Governments, through the British Government. My hon. friend contends that these governments should have been made acquainted with a list of the supplies of various kinds that can be furnished by Canada. That has been done by this Government on more than one occasion, and last summer I handed an amended and enlarged list to the various departments of the British Government. I had a great many conferences on the subject with them. In addition I arranged with the International Purchasing Commission in London to secure an interview at which all the Allied governments, I think, were represented. I spoke to them upon the importance of securing in Canada many supplies which we were able to provide as promptly and, I believe, of as good quality and at as reasonable prices as they could be furnished in any other country.

More than that, I have received from time to time, at least twenty-five delegations from persons in this country who were able to furnish supplies and who contended that the British Government had not availed themselves of the resources of Canada as freely as they should have done. To every one of those delegations which came at various times during the last fifteen months, I explained precisely what we had done in this connection, and in every single instance, after the situation had been explained and after the representations which we had put forward had been made known, those delegations stated to me in distinct terms that they believed that the Government of Canada had done everything possible to secure orders for supplies, not only from the British Government but from the Allied Governments. If my hon. friend knows of business interests throughout the country which are not satisfied with what the Government has done, I would be very glad to receive any of them and to explain to them, more fully than it is possible for me to do in this House, precisely what we have done in that regard, the character of the representations that we have made, and the effect that they sometimes have produced. It is perfectly true that early in the war there were sent to the United States orders that might very well have been sent to this country, and I have put representations in reasonably forcible terms before the various departments of