

of this country, and I know to the gentlemen of this House, to know that \$250,000,000 has been provided in Canada for the purpose of enabling this work to be done. Of this sum, \$100,000,000 has been provided by the banks of Canada. I desire to pay a tribute of appreciation to the banks for their splendid co-operation in making that provision, and in other matters connected with the carrying on of the war. The balance, \$150,000,000 has been provided by the Government of Canada, and it is anticipated that arrangements can be made which will enable the Government of Canada to provide further large sums for this purpose in the future. If we are to have munitions produced on a great scale in Canada, we must make some provision ourselves to assist the British Government in financing those arrangements. There has been the most hearty co-operation between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United Kingdom for this purpose, and that co-operation will continue to the end.

The production of copper, zinc and lead has been encouraged through the production of munitions, and important tonnage has been created. All the cartridge cases and fuses are being manufactured in Canada today, I understand. One very gratifying feature, which gave me some surprise considering the enormous extent of the orders; is that ninety per cent of the steel necessary for this purpose in the year 1917 will be produced in Canada. That is a great tribute to the management of the steel industries of Canada, because it is obvious to all the members of this House that the requirements of steel for the production of so enormous a quantity of munitions must be very great indeed and far beyond what would have been possible in this country under ordinary conditions.

The production of gun cotton and of the necessary acids for the manufacture of nitro-cellulose powder, acetone, and many other important articles requisite for munitions, including tri-nitro-toluol, has been firmly established. I could speak at great length on what has been accomplished in the production of munitions in this country, but the subject has been very fully dealt with by the chairman of the Imperial Munitions Board in recent utterances.

Another very important matter which the department of the Government have dealt with is the execution of vast orders from the British and Allied Governments, and from the Governments of New Zealand

[Sir Robert Borden.]

and South Africa. I have not an exact statement of the amount to which those orders have run; certainly it is not less than \$150,000,000, and probably well up to \$200,000,000. The departments which have been charged with the execution of these orders are the Department of Militia and Defence, the Department of Trade and Commerce and the Department of Agriculture. Remember, Mr. Speaker, if you please, that the execution of even a million dollar order, involving contracts with, perhaps, 40, 50 or 100 people all over this country, and involving also inspection of articles produced and arrangements for their transportation—all this imposes an enormous amount of administrative and executive work upon any department of the Government that undertakes it. Consider also the enormous variety of articles which have been purchased in this way: army blankets, artillery harness, gun carriages, limbers, railway cars, saddlery, knitted goods, wheat, flour, oats, hay, and supplies of all kinds. When hon. gentlemen realize that those orders run into \$150,000,000 or \$200,000,000 and that they involve a very large organization, constant supervision and frequent negotiations with the governments for whom the various departments are acting, they will understand that all this has entailed an enormous amount of labour and responsibility upon the departments that have been actively concerned.

I should allude also to the work of the War Purchasing Commission. It was established, as hon. gentlemen know, in May, 1915, for the purpose of purchasing in the most effective way and with the least opportunity for waste or maladministration all supplies required by any department of the Government in connection with or for the purpose of the war. Nearly every department of the Government has purchased supplies in that way: the Department of Militia and Defence and the Department of Naval Service are naturally the two principal departments—but the Department of Justice in connection with internment operations, and other departments of the Government from time to time apply to the commission as they may require articles which are properly chargeable against the war appropriation. The War Purchasing Commission makes these purchases by tender and contract, unless in exceptional cases, for reasons stated in writing. Some time ago its purchases had aggregated more than \$80,000,000. I do not know what they would amount to at the present time—con-