

Dominion, a staff of over four thousand inspectors. I would like to say that no body of men charged with serious duty ever received more generous, more loyal, more efficient support than has been accorded to this Board by the members of the staff at the head office. Night and day, Saturday and Sunday, without regard to personal inconvenience or to physical weariness, they have lent themselves devotedly and unreservedly and continuously to the duties which were placed upon us. (Applause).

I would like to pay tribute to men—business men, professional men, leaders in great corporations—who either themselves, when they were asked, gave up their duties and came here, or who loaned their most efficient servants that they might serve us; and when I met the members of the staff, the representative members, the other night, and these business men who had volunteered for service so generously, I felt it was worth while. I believe if this Board were today to telegraph to each city in the Dominion and ask for a dozen of the ablest men in the city, I believe the common reply by wire would be—"I will be down on the next train." (Applause).

Perhaps I can illustrate to you the volume of business carried on if I say that the amount of money which we expend annually under the direct control of the Board, is more than two and a half times greater than the expenditures made in a normal year by the Government of Canada. And I would like to say to you as a matter of—I don't think pride, but as a matter of great satisfaction,—that when the officers sent from England by the British Auditor-General to go over our books left for England last week, after having been here for two months, they indicated, they found the records wholly satisfactory. (Applause).

You may be interested in learning of the manner in which this great business is carried on. Unlike the United States, where the large corporations who are given orders for munitions undertake to furnish a complete article, whether it is a complete empty shell or a complete finished shell, with or without fuze, we in this country place orders with small establishments in every province in the Dominion with the exception of yours, Sir Louis (Sir Louis Davies), where the people are engaged practically exclusively