

cent of the British Empire's requirements. That was a tremendous achievement. We also set a pace in reducing the cost of munitions, and other countries had to follow our lead; so that before the war ended costs in all Allied countries were down to a mere fraction of what they had been at the beginning.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Can we not do as well again?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: We can do as well again. I hope the Government's future appointments will be as good as those already made, but we cannot get on successfully with four different organizations. I know the Government do not intend to continue these four; so I cannot understand what excuse there is for creating them. What need is there for a War Supply Board? I have gone through the Bill setting up the new department, and am quite unable to understand why the Government jump from one purchasing organization to another. A choice will finally have to be made from among four separate bodies, or they will have to be merged into one.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The purpose of this Bill is to co-ordinate and simplify various activities and get rid of organizations that clash or overlap.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Then why create a War Supply Board under the War Measures Act?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I have not discussed this matter with the Minister. It may be that this is but a name given to a board that will co-ordinate activities of several departments. At this time the Parliament of Canada must trust somebody. My right honourable friend has said he would have complete confidence in and collaborate fully with the Government.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: He will admit that there are able men in the Department of Transport, whose Minister, Hon. Mr. Howe, he has already commended. I am sure he will also commend Hon. Mr. Ralston, the new Minister of Finance, who is making a great personal sacrifice, abandoning all his professional activities, which are considerable, in order to serve the country at this time. He and all his colleagues will strive to get full value for every Canadian dollar that is spent. I suggest to my right honourable friend that he revert to the state of mind he manifested last week, and that we all join in an effort to save this country and help the Allies. Oneness of purpose is evident everywhere. I think my right honourable friend will find there is a

true ring to the statement made yesterday by the Prime Minister that members of the Cabinet are not now being guided by political considerations. At this time we must not look back, but must concentrate on unity of action.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I quite agree. To be of any use here we have to criticize, and we should be careful to criticize constructively. I want to assure the Government that it will be far more pleasant for me to praise than to condemn. The Government will never wait long for help from me, while I feel they are endeavouring to get on. And if in my opinion they make a mistake my criticism will spring from no political motives whatever, but solely from a desire to cooperate.

I am glad my honourable friend mentioned the appointment of the new Minister of Finance. It was my intention to say a word about this, and I might have forgotten it. I am much pleased that Hon. Mr. Ralston has accepted the portfolio. He is an excellent acquisition to the Government ranks, and I welcome his coming once more into the councils of the country.

I hope that any other appointment to the Cabinet will be equally commendable. It would not be fair to state the name of the gentleman I have heard mentioned as likely to be the new Minister of Munitions and Supply, but I can say he is the right man for the job and his appointment would be an admirable one. I have no doubt my honourable friend knows whom I have in mind.

To come back to the point we were discussing a moment ago, I urge that we do not use four or five wheels where we need only one.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Hear, hear.

I would ask my right honourable friend to be kind enough to tell me privately the name of the gentleman whose appointment as Minister of Munitions and Supply he feels would be approved throughout the country.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I shall do so.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: And I shall see that the information is made use of.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I have a suggestion to make about the Bill. A memorandum from our Parliamentary Counsel, which is no doubt in the hands of the honourable leader, calls attention to the use of the word "community" in section 6. The section reads:

The Minister shall examine into and organize the resources of Canada . . . and shall explore and estimate the needs present and prospective of the Government and the community. . . .

I never before saw that word used in a statute.