

Mr. GREEN: May I finish my statement? Certain work could be divided up among smaller plants. I am told that this could be done at the coast, that one plant could do a certain job, another plant could do another job and then the product could be assembled. It might prove considerably cheaper to do it that way than to erect these huge plants. I am asking the minister to take this under consideration. Perhaps at the moment he cannot let us know what can be done, but I feel confident that if this change were made he would get rid of many of his problems.

Mr. HOWE: I know of no small plant which has not more business than it can do at the moment. The smaller plants take subcontracts from the larger plants. Our aircraft industry is concentrated in seven or eight large centres, but the work is spread out in practically every town and village in the country. Almost every smaller machine shop can get all the work it wants to do.

Mr. GREEN: Not on the coast.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: If it is correct that a smaller plant can get all the work, how is it that in New Westminster a plant which could turn out a hundred thousand shells a month is not turning out one shell to-day?

Mr. HOWE: The trouble with that plant in New Westminster is that it has not the machinery or management. It is an empty building, and there are several empty buildings around the country.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: This company is headed by the most competent business men in the country. It is not a question of management.

Mr. HOWE: Perhaps I am talking about a different plant. My attention has been called to a plant in Vancouver which is being sold for taxes. I have tried to encourage someone to provide the necessary management and equipment in order that some war work might be undertaken.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: As a member of this house I can assure the minister that this plant does not happen to be in Vancouver. The hon. member for Vancouver South will be able to look after that matter. I am referring to the Heaps machine works in New Westminster, which is under the control of eight of probably the finest financial men in British Columbia. Mr. Churchill is demanding speed and more speed in furnishing equipment, and this plant is capable of turning out the necessary work. It is located on tidewater as well as on the railroads. It has the necessary equipment and the skilled labour is available, yet it is not turning out one shell.

Mr. HOWE: Is this plant capable of turning out any product other than shells?

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: It is the largest foundry in British Columbia. It is turning out a few lathes. They do need a few lathes in the province.

Mr. HOWE: Instead of turning out shells, it is turning out lathes. Apparently it is better suited to that particular production. It must be working on a government order if it is turning out lathes, because we are the only buyer of lathes in the market.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Why can they not get a government order?

Mr. HOWE: They have one if they are turning out lathes. It would be an order for the Citadel Merchandising company, which is a government-owned company.

Mr. REID: This particular plant was in liquidation, but about six months ago a new company was formed. They obtained extra property and installed new machinery. They came to Ottawa looking for orders for shells which they were prepared to manufacture. As the hon. member for Fraser Valley has pointed out, as yet they have received no order for shells. I join with the hon. member for Vancouver South in pleading with the minister to see that more war work is given to British Columbia. There is a Pacific as well as an Atlantic ocean, and no one can tell when we may have trouble on the Pacific. Hundreds of capable men are idle there.

Mr. GREEN: The minister told the committee that all these plants were working to capacity. I know that some machine shops in Vancouver are not working to capacity, even on an eight-hour shift, let alone on two or three shifts.

Mr. HOWE: Which one?

Mr. GREEN: I will check up and give the hon. gentleman the names.

Mr. MacNICOL: In the event of any British Columbia plant being used for, not making, but perhaps turning shells, will not the material of which the shells are composed have to be shipped from Ontario? As I understand it, all this material is made around Hamilton and Welland. What hon. members are asking is that the steel for making shells be shipped out to the west, and after being turned, out there, the shells will have to be shipped back east again.

Mr. COLDWELL: Much that has arisen out of the discussion this afternoon indicates a feeling of uneasiness in all parts of the house with respect to the Department of Munitions and Supply and its part in the war effort. This concern is directed particularly, I think, to the aircraft industry. I under-