

ing Great Britain—and my right hon. friend must have heard of this—that if contracts in certain lines are to be given to Canada the prices must be lower than the price in the United States; when just the reverse should be the case. Canada, very properly, and on the highest possible grounds, is making great sacrifices in men, and in every other way for the Empire and the great issues involved; the United States, so far, has remained absolutely quiescently neutral. Yet, to-day, the workshops of that country are humming, turning out for the British Government supplies, a large portion of which might have been made in Canada. If immediately after the war broke out there had been a vigorous effort on the part of Canada's representatives in Great Britain; if they had made representations to the Imperial authorities as to Canada's facilities in the different lines of manufacture, I say we should have secured a larger portion of business than we have done.

Mr. BURNHAM: Is there anything to prevent my hon. friend going over there and making these representations?

Mr. KYTE: He is not paid for it.

Mr. MACDONALD: I do not see what the pertinence of my hon. friend's question is.

Mr. BURNHAM: I understand that the hon. gentleman, who characterizes a civil question as an impertinence—

Mr. MACDONALD: I said "the pertinence."

Mr. BURNHAM: I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. I understood my hon. friend to say that if the proper people had gone to the Old Country at the beginning of this war—

Mr. MACDONALD: No, that was not it.

Mr. BURNHAM: Well, at some time during the war, then.

Mr. MACDONALD: No, that was not it.

Mr. BURNHAM: Well, at no time, then. I must have altogether misunderstood my hon. friend.

Mr. MACDONALD: I think my hon. friend must either be afflicted by the acoustics of this building, or, as the hon. member for North Cape Breton said the other day, the "alarm clock" has gone off again. My hon. friend spoke without appreciating what I said. I said if we had had a proper business organization in the High Commissioner's office at the beginning of

[Mr. Macdonald.]

the war, and our representatives had given to the proper authorities in Great Britain full and adequate information as to our facilities for manufacturing different kinds of war supplies we should have received a larger amount of orders than we have had. I say that that complaint is being made by business men all over this country; that the workshops of the United States are humming, and their workmen busy, manufacturing supplies which could be turned out in Canada just as well; furthermore, it has been said that unless Canada can supply certain lines cheaper than the United States she will not get the order.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Would my hon. friend give me his authority for that statement?

Mr. MACDONALD: If I may trespass upon a somewhat debatable subject, shells, for instance. Has my right hon. friend never heard the statement that unless Canada manufactures shells as cheap or cheaper than the United States, the order would go to the United States?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I have not heard of it.

Mr. MACDONALD: Then my right hon. friend has not heard what others of us have heard from well-informed authorities on the other side. Of course, I do not wish to give my hon. friend the details of a private conversation, but I may say that that statement comes from a source about which there can be no dispute. Sir George Perley is a very estimable gentleman, as all of us who knew him in this House know, but he went over to London as a locum tenens; he did not go over there inspired with the idea that a High Commissioner should have, namely, to make a record for himself as the representative of Canada. He went to London simply to hold the place till my right hon. friend was ready to make a permanent appointment. I do not care what the ability of any man is, or what his position, unless he gives to that position all the energy and enthusiasm which a man would do who was inspired with the idea of discharging his duties in the best possible manner and with full credit to himself, he will not get the best results. Complaints are made throughout Canada generally, and have been made for the last two years, that the business organization of the High Commissioner's office should be on a wider basis. With all respect to the distinguished former High Commissioner, I say, as one who has visited