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The Government intend, therefore, immediately to establish a War Supply Board, responsible to the Minister of Finance with powers generally similar in scope to those, which, under the proposed legislation, would be given to the Department of Munitions and Supply. The Government already have, in the opinion of their legal advisers, authority to set up such a Board under the War Measures Act. It was felt, however, that, as time went on, it might quite possibly appear that a separate Ministry was justified.

the war will be made upon the country. If the need arises, the legislation gives us the power to act quickly.
no one can forecast what the developments will be. It is therefore advisable to have in reserve the necessary authority to establish another department with a full-time Minister in charge.

In the early stages, however, it is considered that surveys, investigations, organization and administrative methods can be initiated and worked out by a Board in close touch with business and practical conditions, these activities to be later continued under the Board, or merged in a Ministry as the occasion and circumstances demand, and as the experience gained may warrant.