

and morally, and when they come back they are likely to be better citizens than they were before they went away. There is no training which is better physically and morally for a young man than the training of a soldier, and I believe that when they do come back they will soon take their appropriate places in the industrial life of Canada, and that it will not take long to settle the problem which will face us in the future. I do not despair of our country rapidly going ahead again and soon reaching the wonderful stride which it attained in the years when the party led by my right hon. friend who is now leader of the Opposition was in power. When he came into office there was great depression; but, by the adoption of energetic and progressive policy, the wonderful resources of our western country were made known to the people of the United States and of Europe, and it was not long before immigrants from the Old Land and from the new began to flock to Canada, not by thousands, not by tens of thousands, but by hundreds of thousands. We have in our western country the same rich lands that we have ever had. We not only have the millions of acres which have been settled upon, but in that country there are from seventy-five to a hundred million acres of land still unsettled, still belonging to the Crown, among the most fertile and most splendid land that can be found in any part of the world. And all that has to be done is for a Government progressive enough to take steps for the settlement of these lands, to make their wonderful advantages known to the people of the outside world; and when peace comes, immigrants will again come into our country by the hundreds of thousands, as they came in the years gone by. That will bring prosperity, that will bring peace, that will bring hope and inspiration, to the people of Canada. I, Sir, have no fears for what the future may bring forth, and I desire to repeat that, instead of indulging in those theoretical ideas which the Minister of Trade and Commerce seems to have in his bonnet, and for which he is asking the opportunity to spend money while the war is on, we should wait until the war is won, and then the people of Canada will soon adapt themselves to the situation, and you will see an era of prosperity again spreading over this country.

My hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce is going to have a great commercial bureau, situated in Ottawa. While I am not quite sure that that would not be

desirable at some distant time, I think that the matter of our voting unanimously, as the minister has suggested, a considerable sum of money at this late day in the session in order to carry out these ideas might very well be postponed until different conditions prevail throughout the country.

I had thought, Mr. Speaker, that my hon. friend would have had something more practical to present to us to-day than that which he has suggested. He knows that since this war began the necessity for a Canadian mercantile marine has increased week by week and month by month. He knows well—because he comes from a province where even the most ignorant are aware of this—that in the not distant past Canada was one of the great ship-building and ship-owning countries of the world. He knows that in the city of St. John, from which I come, it is not so many years since we could see at least 1,200 men working in the shipyards of Courtenay bay. He knows that shipbuilding was carried on up the St. John river, on the Kennebecasis river, on the north shore of the province, on the magnificent Miramichi river, where ships of the world, almost, could lie at anchor. He knows that the people there have the instinct for shipbuilding. He knows that if there is anything which the Empire requires to-day for its success in this war it is more vessels to carry the products of the overseas dominions to the markets of England and the Allies. He knows that, as a result of the destructive submarine warfare, the merchant marine of Great Britain has been declining to an alarming extent, and that upwards of 2,000,000 tons of mercantile shipping belonging to the Empire have been sunk. He knows that many people in this country outside of Parliament have been urging upon the Government the necessity of doing something for the promotion of shipbuilding. Yet, Sir, with this knowledge, my hon. friend comes to Parliament and talks about his emissaries, about his commissioners whom he is sending to all parts of the world to encourage trade and commerce, about the bureau which he is going to establish on behalf of Canadian industries, about the convention which he is going to have before long in Ottawa. He talks about all these things, but upon the great question in which the people of Canada and the people of the Empire are so vitally interested, my hon. friend remains silent. When I ventured to bring this question to his attention a few days ago he told me that when he should come again with his Estimates he would ask our advice with