

condition than that of this country, and it is enormously greater. When the statement was given to me by the director of contracts. Mr. Winter, I really was surprised that the proportion placed in Canada was so large, because from the reports in the press I thought that the orders placed in the United States must be perhaps ten times as great. I have no reason to believe that the statement furnished to me was not an accurate statement; I am sure it would be accurate and dependable. That, however, relates only to orders placed by the British Government. There have been orders for harness from the Italian, French and Russian Governments, and there may have been some for boots at one time, although I think lately there have not been any orders for boots. Whenever we have heard of a contemplated order by the French, the Russian, or the Italian Government, we have not failed to press upon the attention of the Government concerned, in each instance, Canada's ability to fill that order. We have not failed to do that in a single instance where the subject has come to our attention, and in some cases with good results. As far as leather goods are concerned, I am informed that we shall require for our own troops in the immediate future a very considerable amount of harness, that requests for tenders have been sent out within the past two or three weeks, and that tenders will probably be in shortly. I hope it may prove that the industries in Edmonton, to which my hon. friend has alluded, will benefit by the opportunity thus afforded.

I may say to my hon. friend that in dealing with orders for supplies for our own troops, the Government have felt it incumbent upon them to give special consideration to the industries of Western Canada. We have taken steps for that purpose which I think have proved effective. I do not think we can well be criticised for taking the course to which I have alluded, and which can be explained later by the hon. member for East Toronto (Mr. Kemp) as chairman of the War Purchases Commission. It was felt that we should give consideration to the conditions of unemployment which prevailed in the West, during the months of last winter and last spring, perhaps to a more serious extent than in other parts of the country, and that we should also have regard for the splendid response that has been made all through Western Canada to the call to take up arms in defence of the liberties of the Empire. I hope that

Edmonton may derive some benefit from the tenders which, I believe, are expected shortly.

At six o'clock, the committee took recess.

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. MACDONALD: We have had the advantage of the statement which has been made by the Prime Minister in regard to this matter, but as has been pointed out by hon. gentlemen on this side of the House, I think the right hon. gentleman misapprehended the point I was making. I, of course, accept his statement as to what the Government did on this side in regard to supplying the material required for the war. It is, however, a matter of common notoriety in this country, that owing to certain representations that are said to have been made by certain members of the Government, a very large contract for shells for Russia is now being filled in the United States, certain contractors having transferred it there. I quite believe that my right hon. friend discussed with the Secretary of State for the Colonies and other members of the British Government, what Canada might or might not do in regard to supplying the needs not only of Great Britain, but of the Allies. But he is here and the War Office is there. The point which I made was and I desire to reiterate it, that there is not in the High Commissioner's office today, and there has not been since the war began, that arrangement for business representation in the Old Country whereby the War Office would be advised of the thousand and one things that could be made in Canada. The High Commissioner's Office is not in a position to advise the War Office as intimately as it should be advised in regard to these things. My right hon. friend and his Government are many thousands of miles away from the War Office. What Canada wants, and should have, in the High Commissioner's office is a business attache or attaches equipped with a full and complete knowledge of Canada and her industrial facilities, and in touch with the War Office at all times. That the necessity for such an organization exists I propose to prove by the evidence of my right hon. friend himself, in a statement which he made to the House just before prorogation last year. On the 15th of April, 1915, the Prime Minister made certain remarks in regard to a statement prepared by the