

supplies has prevailed in the conduct of all government affairs from the day our friends opposite took office. The civil government of Canada costs millions and tens of millions more to-day than it did before they took office, and they have less business to transact in every line relating to civil government.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: That is not correct.

Mr. OLIVER: The books will show.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Yes, they will show.

Mr. OLIVER: The Government failed to recognize those tremendous obligations that we were assuming on our entry into the war, that we must assume when we enter the war if we are going to do ourselves credit. If we are going to support the Allies with the sacrifice of men, we are surely going to support them with the sacrifice of money, and it was our business to see that every resource of the Dominion of Canada was husbanded to the last cent in order that Canada might play her part in the war, in finance, as well as in men. But it has been as though no such thing occurred. It has been as though a river of wealth were running by, and it was just a matter of how much we could dip out and scatter. The financing of Canada has been conducted on these principles, and, instead of the condition changing for the better from day to day or from year to year, never before in the history of Canada has Parliament witnessed such tremendous extravagance and such unreasonable action as have occurred during the present session. We are going to win the war by burdening our credit with a possible award of \$60,000,000 for absolutely nothing; by taking over obligations running up in the neighbourhood of \$600,000,000, interest charges that we will never get out of the earnings of the railroad, that will have to come out of the Canadian treasury, at a time when every atom in us should have been concentrated on the idea of saving money, so that we could bear our proper part in the war. We have thrown our money away, wasted it, and depleted our credit, and to-day we must see our industries shut down, and, the profits of our farmers cut off, because of the extravagance with which our affairs have been conducted and the disregard which has been paid to the maintenance of our credit.

Mr. MCKENZIE: The motion which was made by the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald) this afternoon deals with a matter of the greatest possible importance,

or, at least, of great importance to some parts of Canada. It is important for myself and for the people whom I represent in this House because, directly and indirectly, they are concerned in the employment which the manufacture of shells and the production of steel for the shells afforded to the people. It was important because thousands of men were employed in the production of coal, which is the great power which puts the machinery in motion for the making of steel and whatever enters into the production of shells in this country. I think that if the Government were in possession of the facts which led to the lessening of the production of shells they should have given it to this House long before now. If they could have prevented the condition of things in this country which has thrown thousands of men out of employment, we have a right to ask that they should do so, and that they should endeavour to create a condition that would ensure employment for our men. With winter not very far off, the Government should strive to improve conditions which, from the present outlook, promise to be very distressing. I imagine the Minister of Trade and Commerce, by reason of the department which he represents, would be deeply interested in this question. I admit at once that the manufacture of shells was not, before the war, one of the industries of this country, and not an industry which had much to do with the prosperity of Canada, or one which would naturally call for the ingenuity and wisdom of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. It is, perhaps a phrase of the trade and business in this country upon which he had no training and for which, perhaps, he has no predilections or liking. But it so happens that, in the last three years, it has been a trade in this country, providing a livelihood for thousands of people and has created a condition with which we have to cope.

The cutting off of that industry seriously affects the whole community; it affects those directly as well as those indirectly interested. The Department of Trade and Commerce is particularly concerned with this kind of business, and I was surprised that the Minister of Trade and Commerce, of all members of the Government, should obstruct the giving of information asked for by the member for Pictou and desired so urgently by the whole people. I am surprised that the minister should take such a narrow view of this question. He spoke with a view to shutting us off from the discussion and of denying to the people