

Mr. HAZEN: The guns were not removed from the Niobe. There had to be certain work done in the way of repairing the vessel for sea and making preparations for war, which included to a certain extent attending to the boilers and other parts of the machinery. That work is being done.

Mr. PUGSLEY: How long has that work been going on?

Mr. HAZEN: About ten days or two weeks.

Mr. LEMIEUX: We were speaking a moment ago of the various contributions which had been made by the present Government. In that connection may I be permitted to say that I have received a letter from the Prime Minister of Quebec stating that he has offered the Imperial authorities 4,000,000 lbs. of Canadian cheese as a contribution from the province of Quebec. I heartily concur in what has been said by my hon. friend from St. John about Belgium. If the Government thinks it better to do something in the same way as was done for France, might I offer a suggestion? One of our colleagues, the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Beland), happens to be in the war zone at the present time, and I was informed last night by a member of this House, who is just back from Europe, that he met Dr. Beland the day after the declaration of hostilities took place. Dr. Beland very loyally offered to devote his services, for medical and hospital purposes during the whole time of the war, to the Belgian authorities. If the Government, instead of offering cheese, or oats, or other commodities, thought it better to offer beds for hospitals, as they did, and quite properly so, to the French authorities, might I suggest to my right hon. friend and to the Belgian consul here, that it might be well to give Dr. Beland the direction of that service on the other side of the water? I need not say that Dr. Beland is one of the most distinguished members of the profession, both as a doctor and a surgeon, and that he would be a credit to Canada if he were entrusted with the direction of that hospital service in Belgium.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I appreciate what has been said by my hon. friend from St. John (Mr. Pugsley) in regard to the wonderful gallantry that the Belgians have displayed in defending their country and the remarkable resistance they have offered to the invading army. The Government will be glad to take into consideration what has been suggested, but, on the other hand, it must be remembered that we have entered

into a very great war for the purpose of preserving Belgian neutrality and independence, and, as far as the press reports indicate, a very large force has been sent to Belgium for the purpose of protecting that country. Whether, under the circumstances, it would be incumbent upon us to make the same offer to Belgium that we did to France may be a matter for consideration. I do not desire to offer any definite opinion upon the suggestion at the present time.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I would like to ask my hon. friend the Minister of Militia and Defence upon what system he proposes making the purchases of war materials and supplies with the money that is being voted by this Bill. Has he any general plan for doing it, and if so would he give it in a general way to the House?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES: As far as the purchase of supplies is concerned, opportunity has been given to every manufacturer in the Dominion of Canada, irrespective of politics, race, or nationality, or anything of the kind, to furnish them. The name of every gentleman that is sent in from each community, together with the commodities that he can supply, is entered in a list by the Director of Contracts, who has charge of the matter. As far as the purchase of trucks and wagons is concerned, I have secured the services of Mr. Russell, of the Russell Motor Car Company, Toronto, who is looking into that, and I understand that he is distributing his purchases practically from the Atlantic to the Pacific, buying wherever he can get these articles. In the early stages tenders were called for under the ordinary contract forms, but even the supplying of articles that we already had under contract is being distributed, and I do not think there is any ground for complaint in regard to the distribution that has been made.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: What is the system with regard to forage and food supplies?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES: We have asked for forage all over the country. I am asking every member of Parliament and every buyer to send in the names of persons who can supply forage. We are sending out instructions to communicate the names of persons who have horses to sell to General Benson.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: The phraseology of section 2 follows the resolution passed by the British House of Commons in con-