

these two explanations, what the attitude of the Government is in regard to this business, I hope he will do so. For myself I confess an inability to gather it. The situation is that the shell industry in Canada has been stopped, and why? Is it because shells are not needed across the ocean, where the war, in all its cruelty and fierceness, is proceeding with greater intensity than in previous times? The demand for shells is just as great now as ever. Are we in Canada going to stop supplying shells? If so, why? We must remember that the history of this whole question of shell production in Canada is this: The Government, through the original committee, proceeded to form an organization which allotted contracts and initiated the shell production. That was carried on for some time. Then we had the Imperial Munitions Board. But nothing has been initiated by this Government in any way in connection with shell production. Why should we not ascertain, where we are in regard to this matter? Is the Government going to move in it, or is it not? What course was pursued in Great Britain? There they had a registration of the man-power of the nation, and they nationalized the shell industry. Every shell manufactory was taken over by the Government, and operated by them. It is a well-known fact that a great number of men were brought back from the front in order to engage in the shell industry in Great Britain, while a large number of women of the old land were engaged in these industries. Is it because there are plenty of shells being made in Great Britain, that they do not require assistance from outside? If that is the reason, the country should know it. If there is any other reason the country should know it. Is it because of any financial reason? In this connection I would call the attention of the House to a speech made by Mr. Rowell, as reported in the press, in which he gives a financial reason for the stoppage of the manufacture of shells.

Britain is giving her orders for munitions to the United States and our workers are threatened with closing down, for why? Because Great Britain has now come to the point where she cannot possibly pay in gold, after the great assistance she has given to the allies and she must purchase on credit. The United States can sell her on these conditions, and why should not Canada be able to do likewise?

I think the question asked by Mr. Rowell is a very pertinent one. The discussion to ascertain where we stand on this matter was absolutely necessary. Will the Minister of Trade and Commerce, or will the Minister of Finance, tell us that the situa-

tion is that, by reason of financial arrangements by Great Britain, she is now purchasing shells in the United States, while, by reason of no financial arrangement having been made by Canada, Britain is not going to purchase them in Canada? If these are the reasons we ought to know it; because if financial arrangements can be made under which this industry can be continued, such arrangements ought to be made, for Canada, and our people should be called upon, if necessary, to make sacrifices to that end. What has been the position for the last three years? All over this country, by reason of the shell industry, and the tremendous amounts of money that have been paid to those who work in that industry, we have had prosperity in every industrial centre, which prosperity has helped the Minister of Finance to swell his revenues and has provided the money with which his loans were taken up and our patriotic funds maintained. All these things were largely due to the shell manufacture and its correlative industries. Every iron and steel industry in this country that could produce shells has been working overtime; they have been disregarding the production of staple articles in order to engage in the manufacture of shells. Are these activities to be stopped? Is this country to be thrown back to where it was in 1914?

Is the question one of transportation? Tremendous injury has been inflicted upon the shipping of allied and neutral nations by the German submarine campaign, and the suggestion has been made in some quarters that that accounts for the difficulty experienced in transporting shells. While the shell itself is not being exported, I understand that Great Britain is still importing from the United States and Canada large quantities of steel ingots, out of which the shell is bored. If this raw material can be transported in large quantities, there is no reason why the shell itself cannot be transported. It does not weigh as much as the ingot, and it does not take up as much room; so that the argument made with regard to the difficulty of transportation does not prevail. If shells are needed at the front and if they can be transported as easily as shell steel can be transported, what justification is there for the present condition in respect of the manufacture of shells in Canada?

I have referred to the advantages which have come to Canada as a result of this industry. Those advantages are well known; why should they be swept away?