

afternoon as entirely new. I think he had better consult with his colleague the President of the Council, the Hon. Mr. Loughheed, and not entirely ignore the work that this commission is doing. Heaven knows it is costing the country enough, but it is only one of the eighty odd commissions which this Government has appointed since it came into power. Surely my hon. friend, with his long experience and his great ability, ought to be able to work out such problems himself; or, if he cannot do that, he ought to be able to work them out with the assistance of his colleagues. But he is going to have a commission also to work at the same thing, and then, when he gets it organized, he is going to have this conference and a right good time right here in the city of Ottawa, and he is not going to wait until the war is over, because he now sees the end of the war in sight. My hon. friend has asked us to meet with him here in friendly intercourse almost as a joint committee of this House to talk these things over and endeavour to arrive at a decision as to what will be best for Canada, but when the hon. member for Rouville (Mr. Lemieux) asked him if he would treat the matter from a non-party standpoint there arose a buzz of protest from behind the hon. gentleman which prevented him from giving an assent to the proposition of my hon. friend from Rouville. Whether the war is on or whether the war is not on, this Government is partisan first, last, and all the time, and we need not expect very much from it.

My hon. friend says that conditions are going to be very different after the war is over, and that we must get to work now and have these commissioners and have this conference, and, I suppose, have this banquet and talk this thing over. My own idea is that we should win the war first. I would far sooner see the time of this House taken up in trying to expose wrongdoing and trying to prevent graft and the waste of millions upon millions of the money of the people of Canada and of the British Empire than in discussing theoretical questions which will not become practical until the war is over. My hon. friend has great fear, however, that the industries of Canada will be affected to a large extent by reason of 250,000 of our young men being taken from Canada to fight the battles of the Empire. My hon. friend also deplores the fact that while industries have been created, yet they are not being used for a good purpose, and

[Mr. Pugsley.]

says that ordinary industries are to promote the peace and happiness of mankind, while the industries which have been started in connection with the manufacture of munitions of war are really for the injury and the detriment of mankind. Was my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce here when the Minister of Finance made his Budget speech, in which he spoke in glowing terms of the great increase which had taken place in the trade of Canada since the war began, of the wonderful development which had taken place, of the thousands of men who were being employed? The Minister of Finance fairly gloated over the present situation and said that to-day Canada was prosperous. One would almost think he would like the war to go on forever, because then Canada would have a flowing revenue and men would be employed and the taxes could be paid, because people would have the money coming in from munitions to enable them to pay the taxes. I rather agree with my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I think it is deplorable that this condition of affairs should exist, and we ought not to boast of what has been the result of it from a financial standpoint so far as this country is concerned, and we ought not to take pleasure or pride in it as the Minister of Finance and many other gentlemen on the opposite side did. Of course, it ought always to be remembered and pleaded in excuse and palliation for the Minister of Finance, that before the war broke out our industries from the Atlantic to the Pacific were paralysed, that men were out of employment; that the wheels of industry had stopped, that the factories had closed and the chimneys were smokeless, and that the war did start up new industries and did give employment to many people. I am not, however, one of those who despair of things righting themselves very quickly when the war is over, whether it should be over in the near future or at a somewhat later date. While it is true that many thousands of our young men will come back maimed and disfigured and incapable of taking their places in the industrial life of Canada; while it is true that many thousands more have already laid down their lives upon the battlefields of Europe and that many thousands more will, I fear, lay down their lives before this war is over; yet it should never be forgotten that the training which those thousands of young men have obtained and will obtain makes them better, physically