

has made. If we had attached to the High Commissioner's office, not Englishmen, who know comparatively little about Canada and its resources, as compared with what the people of Canada themselves know, but expert Canadians, who would give information on these matters, and would be in touch with the officials of the War Office from day to day, very much greater results would be accomplished for Canada and very much larger orders would be placed than have been placed. Of course, it is not too late to remedy the evil, and I trust that in the future some steps will be taken along the lines suggested by my hon. friend from Pictou.

Mr. OLIVER: I wish to draw attention to the fact that, so far as the manufacture of war supplies in the city of Edmonton is concerned, the condition is not as good today as it was six months ago. Some time last winter a contract for the manufacture of saddles for the Russian Government was secured by the Edmonton Saddlery company. That was filled with complete satisfaction. Then, in the spring, a contract was secured for a thousand sets of artillery harness for the French Government. That contract was filled to satisfaction; it was turned out within the contract time, the quality was beyond criticism, and, of course, no fault was found with it. But since then no contract of that character has been secured in that city; in fact, no other contracts of any kind, so far as I am aware, except that two machine shops have been able to get certain shell contracts. The manufacture of harness is an industry that naturally belongs to the western country. There is in that country an enormous demand for team harness, and it is advantageous that it should be made near where it is required. So we have in western cities harness manufacturing establishments manufacturing harness and leather work of that kind who do it, I have no doubt, as well as it is done anywhere in the world. Thus we are not barred by our conditions and circumstances from securing contracts for that particular form of war supplies. I wish to bring that fact to the attention of the Prime Minister as otherwise it might be assumed that while things were not satisfactory a few months ago they are satisfactory now. They were more satisfactory a few months ago than they are now, inasmuch as we were getting contracts then and are getting no contracts now.

I am under the impression that this question

[Mr. Pugsley.]

is very much larger than it has been considered to be up to the present time. While it is not well to pay too much attention to what appears in the newspapers, still the fact remains that there is an enormous industrial boom in the United States by reason of these war contracts. Only this morning I read in the Montreal Gazette that the bank clearings of the United States for the week ending on Thursday last were over fifty per cent higher than for the corresponding week last year, and the general impression is that that change of conditions is very largely due to the profitable work of providing war supplies. There has been no such increase in bank clearings on our side of the line. The same statement gives the increase of clearings in the eastern cities at twenty-nine per cent, in western cities at only six and a half per cent over the same week last year. So there is no doubt that unless there has been a misunderstanding as to the source of the industrial activity of the United States, it must be because the proportion of war orders there is immeasurably larger than here. The figures given by the Prime Minister were one hundred million pounds to the United States, as against forty-eight million pounds to Canada. That is to say we were receiving war orders of nearly half the value of those placed in the United States. If that were the fact, the forty-eight million pounds would mean relatively a much greater degree of industrial employment and advantage to Canada than the one hundred million pounds would to the United States; and yet we find that the financial conditions, universally represented as being the result of war orders, are very much better in the United States than they are in Canada. I do not wish to criticise or to suggest that the Government has not used every effort or has not appreciated its responsibility in the matter, or that the High Commissioner is not properly discharging his duties; but the fact remains that with the condition of war now existing there has been an opportunity for tremendous industrial expansion on this side of the Atlantic. According to what we might consider fair play Canada should share in that industrial expansion at least equally with the United States. But, as a matter of fact, Canada has not shared equally with the United States in that expansion and, so far as the city of Edmonton is concerned, the conditions are not as good to-day as they were six months ago.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The industrial organization of the United States is, of course, in a very much more advanced