

mines at Minto, distributable over a very considerable area, a good deal more cheaply than hydro. At any rate that is my information. The Campbellton area is not served by that development, and whatever power they have must come from Metis. I regret it, but it is a physical fact that Campbellton, being on the border of Quebec, is not served by power in New Brunswick. We can however develop power from coal in New Brunswick to take care of substantial war requirements if the minister will be good enough to let us have some industries down there. There is a dry dock in the city of Saint John, and I am glad to hear that for the account of the British government some freighters of moderate size will be built there. I hope that this policy will be extended. I wonder if we are to have from the Minister of National Defence for Naval Affairs, before consideration of this item is concluded, some statement of policy in that regard. If the matter comes under the minister who has just spoken, we can get the information from him. What about Canada building some freighters on her own account? This is a large subject which I do not wish to open up at this hour, but I have been giving it some thought and I hope the minister is thinking about it.

Mr. HOWE: There are certain requirements that have to be met with regard to plants. There are certain factors that often make it necessary to go to a certain location, because the facilities cannot be duplicated elsewhere. It is all right to say that you have potential power in New Brunswick. I know that New Brunswick is doing its best to increase its power supplies and has machinery for the purpose; nevertheless power is not immediately available in that area. So far as it has been possible, however, at some increased cost, provided the cost is not too high, we have distributed plants. My hon. friend is wrong in saying that the Winnipeg plant was put there for political reasons.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I hardly went so far—to help the unemployment situation.

Mr. HOWE: I have not had one-tenth as much pressure from the government of Manitoba as I have had from the government of New Brunswick so far as that is concerned. We have people asking us in a nice way to build plants in certain places, and they are earnest in their request, but that is not pressure. We have not had pressure. We have had, from almost every community in Canada, requests to build airports, and there is nothing wrong with that. I only wish we could comply with every one of these requests, but airports are not located in that

way any more than manufacturing plants are. We have had special studies made of each of the prairie provinces and of British Columbia to see what can be done.

Mr. GREEN: Will the minister tell us what the situation is in British Columbia?

Mr. HOWE: A good deal of war work is being done there. There is a large chemical industry at Trail, put there at government expense. There are large buildings because power is available there.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Does the minister say there is a shortage of power there?

Mr. HOWE: No.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Why are we not manufacturing, then?

Mr. GREEN: I was referring to the question of power in British Columbia.

Mr. HOWE: There is power there, it is true, but there is no steel. Steel has to be brought from a great distance and some types of manufacturing will not stand the cost of transporting steel back and forth across the Rocky mountains.

Mr. GREEN: Does the minister think it is fair that the manufacturing industry of British Columbia should be penalized by that fact? Are we to be prevented from taking part in the manufacturing of war equipment because we are so far away? For that matter, there is no steel in Ontario.

Mr. MacNICOL: Steel is manufactured in Ontario. The Algoma Steel plant is to-day turning out 3,000 tons of iron ore per day.

Mr. HOWE: Two-thirds of the steel manufactured in Canada is manufactured in Ontario.

Mr. GREEN: I meant iron. There is no iron there.

Mr. MacNICOL: Yes, there is.

Mr. HOWE: The Helen mine is one of the greatest producers of iron ore. Between the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. MacNicol) and myself we shall get the geography of the country straightened out.

Mr. GREEN: The situation is no laughing matter for the Pacific coast. I should like the minister to confirm the impression he left a minute ago, that the reason we are not getting more plants at the coast is that we are so far away and that it costs too much to transport the steel. He told me last November that it was lack of power. I want to know what the reason is so that something can be done to remedy the situation in our province.