

been increased from 16 to 80; and that these factories will soon be able to produce in one week the amount which some time ago was secured by careful husbanding for four months. Larger guns are necessary. The very largest guns which Great Britain had on hand at the commencement of the war are now the smallest type of gun which they have in use at the front. The industries of Great Britain are engaged on a very large scale in the manufacture of field guns, machine guns, trench mortars, small arms, and every variety of shells and ammunition.

Let me read to the House a very graphic description contained in a letter to the London Times from a neutral who had recently visited Germany and Great Britain. This is his language:

What is England going to do? This was the whispered query that I heard time and again in Germany. For I found that the possible power of Britain is more truly appreciated and understood in Germany than in any other country in Europe to-day. The great German captains of industry, who have hitherto made the success of German arms possible, seem to realize that if ever the vast industrial might of Britain, so akin to their own, is properly mobilized, if its resources are consistently and adequately exploited, if every ounce of latent energy is made available, then, no matter how great a success German arms may have achieved, no matter how firmly entrenched German troops may stand on enemy soil, the tables will turn, and German chances of final victory will fade into limbo.

I have just crossed Great Britain from one end to the other, and I have visited innumerable towns and cities. Britain at last, after more than a year's delay, is mobilized for war. Her achievement to-day far surpasses the wildest idea of the "kolossal." I have seen factory after factory, working steadily 24 hours a day, seven days in the week, employing thousands of men and women making shells, shells, shells! I have seen factory after factory making aeroplanes; I have seen guns being forged under hydraulic pressure of 12,000 tons; howitzers forged out of the stoutest steel, which requires 16 hours in a blast furnace to heat.

I have seen shell cases pressed out of the living ingot, in less than five minutes, and shells forged at a speed three times as great.

I have seen men working at great forges, where gun parts are cast, straining every nerve and muscle to accomplish their difficult tasks; handling vast lumps of red-hot metal with lightning dexterity. I have seen machine-guns by the hundreds, and rifles by the thousand, all of the most careful workmanship and finish.

The whole north country has been turned into one vast arsenal. The deep pall of fog and smoke that hangs low over the great industrial centres of the Midlands, deeper, denser than it has been for some years past, means that England has at last turned with full energy to the mighty task. The achievement is the more remarkable when it is appreciated that all this work is merely a beginning.

[Sir Robert Borden.]

In that connection, may I speak for a moment of what we are doing in Canada in that regard. A good deal has been made public in the press recently. In Canada we have about 250 factories engaged in the manufacture of munitions, none of them with any previous experience whatever. The value of the orders, as announced by the chairman, of the Imperial Munitions Board amounts to a little over \$300,000,000, and I understand that munitions to the value of \$100,000,000 have already been sent overseas. The orders that have been filled, and that still remain to be filled, involve the use of 500,000 tons of steel, and the payments in January of this year aggregated \$35,000,000. It has been a source of great satisfaction to the Minister of Finance, and I am sure to the people of this country, that Canada, has been able to assist the British Government in financing the payments for that purpose. I believe that of all the payments to be made during the present month of January, the Canadian Government is providing at least one-half, so that we are not only doing our part in producing these munitions of war, but we are also doing our part in temporarily financing for the British Government about one-half of the payments.

Now, the question arises, why we are not doing more in Canada, and why they are not doing more in Great Britain. The reason for that is of a very simple character. The production of a portion of the shell is a work which can be undertaken without great difficulty by almost any factory in the country, but when you come to the more delicate and complex portions of the shell it is impossible to proceed with these as rapidly and as satisfactorily as with the simpler portions. I was told on the best authority that one company in the United Kingdom which undertook some years ago to produce the delicate portions of shells equipped with a time fuse did not make a great success of it for about three years, and that another great firm in Great Britain found it difficult to obtain satisfactory results in less than two years. We in this country, and the manufacturers in Great Britain as well, are undertaking to do it in much less time than that. It is of no value whatever to pile up shell bodies unless you can also supply all the component parts necessary to produce a shell ready for use at the front. As far as the fuse alone is concerned, I believe that 267 different gauges have to be used and that, contained in the time fuse, there are no less