

believe, about \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 is invested. I am sure that factory was erected with the confident expectation that the manufacture of shells in Canada would be continued upon the same scale as previously until the close of the war, or until some decisive victory at all events, had been won. I would not for a moment attempt to disparage what this Government has done towards assisting Great Britain in connection with the purchase of war supplies. I think the Government has done well. At the same time it must not be forgotten that were it not for the wonderful response the people of Canada made to the requirements of the Government nothing could have been accomplished. While my hon. friend takes great credit to the Government and to the Minister of Finance—

SIR THOMAS WHITE: I give all the credit to the people.

MR. PUGSLEY—he must not forget that Canada has willingly and cheerfully responded to the demands made since the opening of the war. I hope my hon. friend will give all the credit to the people, because it is the people who have been paying out these enormous sums of money which have enabled the Government to give such assistance to the Empire. But, Mr. Speaker, would it not occur to you that the very fact that Canada has done so well and that she has been able to finance so largely for Great Britain is the very best possible reason why the Government should insist upon the manufacture of shells being continued in Canada? My hon. friend has given the very best of reasons why the manufacture of shells should not cease. I think the minister ought to have informed the House—because I think the country has a right to know—what report has been made to the British Government as a result of the notices which have gone out that the production of shells is to be lessened if not discontinued in Canada. Indeed, we know that the manufacture of some descriptions of shells is to be entirely discontinued. Let me refer for a moment to the letter from the chairman of the Imperial Munitions Board, which my hon. friend read to the House. It will bear reading again, because it shows a state of affairs which, I think, is deserving of the most earnest consideration of the Government. The letter reads:

Ottawa, 21st August, 1917.

Towards the close of 1916 the capacity for producing munitions in Great Britain had so increased that the Minister of Munitions ad-

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vised that it was not necessary to continue the production of munitions in the United States for British account, except for a few special lines. The production in Canada, however, was continued as before.

The minister has now advised that it is unnecessary to continue production in Canada on the present scale. He has directed that certain lines shall be discontinued; that other lines shall be produced in lessened quantities; while some lines are to be continued as at present.

If language means what it says, the people of Canada must clearly understand that the manufacture of certain lines of shells is to be discontinued. If the intention of the British Government is as expressed in the letter of the chairman of the Munitions Board, it must mean a very great decrease in production, and must mean turning thousands of people in Canada, men and women, out of employment, which will produce a condition of distress in this country during the coming winter. Is not that a subject which ought to engage the attention of this Government? Is not that a matter on which representations should have been made by this Government to the British Government? There is no statement—and it is inconceivable that there would be a statement—that the British Government do not want munitions. The explanation is, either that Great Britain intends to continue upon the same extensive scale, or to engage upon a larger scale than heretofore, the manufacture of munitions in England, or that she is going to obtain munitions upon a larger scale from the United States. The time has not arrived when the demand for munitions at the front is any less than it has been in the past. Surely the Minister of Finance should give the House some explanation in regard to the matter, some reason why the British Government is determined to reduce the manufacture of munitions in this country. The question surely is of sufficient importance to warrant correspondence between the Canadian and Imperial Governments. And yet upon that question the minister gives us no explanation. He apparently is content to allow the closing of the factories in Canada, and the throwing of thousands of people out of employment, without endeavouring to ascertain the cause, and without endeavouring to give any information to the people of Canada on this important subject. The minister says that Canada has financed Great Britain to such a degree that Great Britain is owing to this country at least one hundred millions more than Canada owes the Mother Country in connection with the prosecution of the war. If that is