

before we vote on the speech from the throne. Unless it is done, I feel that I shall have to vote against the speech from the throne.

Moreover, when the bills for financing war activities are brought down they should be accompanied by proposals for paying for this war as it is being waged. We should not inflict on the generation that follows us the cost of another great war. And we must not permit an increase in the already almost intolerable burden of national and other public debt. We believe that there are untouched financial resources which the government may still tap, or resources that have been only partly tapped as yet. The reduction in corporation income tax granted in the last budget should immediately be repealed; taxes on higher incomes should be increased at once, and an excess profits tax and capital gains tax should be instituted. By a capital gains tax I mean a tax on the unearned increment due to the rise in stocks and shares and other securities on account of the present crisis. A capital gains tax, properly applied, would prevent fortunes being made out of the agony of the present crisis and provide a large revenue. As we have so frequently urged in this house, the manufacture of arms, munitions and war material should be nationalized. If the government will not go that far immediately, at least they should bring them under direct public control and eliminate all private gain from these essential war industries.

I emphasize this because we believe that, apart from the defence of our own shores, our major contribution to the allied cause can be made in the economic field. We are the nearest dominion to Europe. We have tremendous resources. In modern war huge masses of men are being replaced by mechanized units which require vast quantities of supplies to maintain them in the line. Frenzied demands for the enlistment of more and more men, if granted, may defeat the very object in view, success in this struggle. This was to a more limited extent true in the last war. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, for example, noted that condition in a letter which he wrote on May 15, 1917, to Sir Allen Aylesworth, in connection with the problem of conscription, in which he said:

There is a shortage of labour in agriculture and industry, in fact in every field where brawn and muscles are needed, and in the face of this condition people there are still yelling for more men being taken away from occupations in which they are so much needed.

That was during the great war. Sir Wilfrid went on to say that had they been in power when the crisis came in 1914 the first thing they would have done would have been to

survey the entire Canadian scene and see exactly what men could be spared, and not do what was then done, allow, or rather urge, men who were badly needed in other capacities to enlist and go overseas and be taken away from the production that was towards the end of the war so badly needed.

Then, what are we going to do about the young men who are called up for defence or who join the forces of the crown at this time? To my mind the condition of such young men is one of the tragedies of war. Not only the risk of death or of being maimed or contracting disease and so on, but the effect of war upon their future, ought to be taken into consideration immediately. We believe, as I have said, that the sending of expeditionary forces is unnecessary and unwise. But if we enlist men for home defence their future after the war should be a matter of grave consideration now. Provision should be made to enable them to continue their education and preparation for civilian life after peace has been proclaimed. We do not know when peace will come; we pray it may come soon, but whether soon or late, we should be considering some preparation now. Unemployment existed before the war came, in spite of increasing preparations for the struggle. I have often said that such relief as the world has had from unemployment over the past few years has been largely due to the mad armament race that was going on, and that I wondered what would happen if disarmament came either as a result of international conferences, as I hoped, or as a result of war. Here we are faced with what may be a long war, and we shall have to meet the consequences that follow. Unemployment, then, should receive some consideration now. To my mind the government should establish at once a committee, upon which labour, farmers, industrialists and others shall be adequately represented, to prepare for the aftermath of the war. Unprepared in this respect, Canada may share in the general chaos which may overwhelm Europe when the war ends. I believe that that is one of the alternatives that the world faces at the present time—chaos as a result of the struggle which is now being waged. We should do our best to see that we are not faced with anything of that sort in Canada.

These are present problems. To my mind there ought to be no thought of adjourning this parliament until some consideration has been given to them. Indeed I go further, and say that perhaps a number of committees of this house might be set up to study these problems and advise and assist the government upon them. We were sent here as members of parliament to meet grave problems