

carrying Canada's battle might by land and sea and air throughout all the fields of operation of the present war. Two of as fine regiments as have ever left Canada have suffered grievous sacrifice, almost elimination, first at Hong Kong and then at Dieppe. No loan which has been put before the people of Manitoba has failed of its quota; no appeal for the Red Cross, no appeal to sacrifice has ever gone unheeded. During the period of the war all of these appeals have been exceeded by the citizens of that city and that province.

Take salvage collection alone. The figures in connection with national salvage collection came to my desk the other day, and they showed that the voluntary collections in Manitoba amounted to 42,167 pounds per thousand of people. The nearest province to Manitoba was Ontario with a figure of 37,100 pounds per thousand, but our original figure was almost double that of nearly every other province in the Dominion of Canada. These figures indicate the war-mindedness, the war spirit and the earnest desire of the people of the city of Winnipeg and the province of Manitoba to make their full weight felt in this war. We are proud of these results, but we are by no means satisfied with them.

I should like to say to the house, to the members of the government and to all who may be interested that the contribution which Winnipeg and Manitoba are making to the war effort is not contingent upon any quid pro quo return by way of those advantages in the way of distribution of work and the added increment of wages which accrue in some places at some times in a state of war. Up to the middle of 1940 any war contracts accruing to the city of Winnipeg constituted a mere trickle, and at no time have they bulked large in the economic life of the province. It is perfectly true that we have one large and successfully operated war plant, a plant which is an outgrowth of the war, due entirely to the war, and for the work which has been given, for the opportunity which has been accorded to share in the war contribution, we are indeed grateful.

Responsible thinking people in the city of Winnipeg do not ask that one man should work for one day at a job which is no longer essential to the war effort of Canada, but we do object to the suggestion which is put out at times that the full weight of the man-power of Canada, and to a lesser extent the machine-power of Canada, are employed in this war when we have in our own city and province a residue of unemployment, a considerable number of employables who are

possessed of skills but who are not yet employed, and a considerable backlog of unskilled labour which is capable and willing and anxious to share in the industrial war effort of this country. What we desire is that in the fulness of the national effort we be given an opportunity to utilize those powers which we have, in order that our contribution to the war effort of Canada may be as great as possible. We can show unused resources, and we are now ready to share fully in the war effort.

I do not think anyone in the province of Manitoba or in the city of Winnipeg thinks of war contracts as a sort of melon to be cut. I have never heard any responsible person say that because we have sent so many thousands of men, so many thousands of our women into the service of Canada, both at home and elsewhere, because of their sacrifice and effort, we have a right to participate in any economic melon or anything of that description. That is not the background of the complaint which I desire to register in this house to-night. We want a full opportunity to contribute and, frankly, we do not think we have had it.

In the last few months I have had an opportunity to travel over considerable portions of Canada, and I suggest in all seriousness that there has been plant expansion which is both unnecessary and uneconomical and, as far as I can see, wholly unjustifiable in view of what remains available in other parts of Canada, particularly that part from which I come. I do not suggest that this is the major breakdown, but I do know the potentialities, the unused reservoir if you like, of labour that is available. Again I suggest that the magnitude of this expansion was unnecessary, and the practice should not be perpetuated. In my opinion, workers should not be sharing work and wages to-day anywhere in Canada in order to keep their number employed if we were in a position fully to utilize, as we have sometimes said we were, the whole man-power and woman-power of the nation.

There is one suggestion that I should like to make. I do not wish to deal with it in detail, but I will place the information I have before the minister who probably can do something about it. I speak of steel for fabrication. It is no military secret that steel is constantly going through Winnipeg to British Columbia for fabrication, where we are told that facilities are already congested and conditions sometimes unsettled. We have facilities in Winnipeg for the fabrication of steel. I know something of the arguments against it, the problem of trans-shipment.