

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: What about human rights?

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Possess your soul in peace and I shall come to that point.

The question of world-trade ought to be studied. When the war is over—if it concludes as we anticipate it will—we shall find world conditions so changed that a great impetus will be given to international trade, and we shall have still greater opportunities of expanding our commerce with the countries of Asia and Europe, and with our friends in the Americas. Canada ranks fourth or fifth among the great trading nations of the world, and in relation to population might well be accorded first place. Therefore we ought to study that problem of post-war world-trade, and the Senate is the very body to study it.

Another question of urgent importance is unemployment relief. Some will say that we shall not have any unemployment after the war. I hope it may be so. But to be prepared for any contingency, should we not study the systems of relief in the United States, in Great Britain, and in our different provinces? Can you tell me how relief is handled in Manitoba? I think I can tell you all about it, and I can tell you something about Saskatchewan. But can I tell you how it is handled in Nova Scotia, in Quebec, in Ontario or in British Columbia? The problem of relief is one that should be studied. Should the relief be in cash or should it be in kind? Or should there be relief at all? Should the money be used for other purposes?

Another problem which we should study is that of social reform. The honourable senator from Parkdale (Hon. Mr. Murdock) wanted me to bring up this subject sooner, but I left it till the last because I think it is the most important. Social reform—and what I am about to say may sound somewhat radical, but it is not—social reform is just a question of human rights. We in the Senate are regarded with suspicion when we mention the subject of human rights, but we are the last people in the world who should be looked upon in that way, provided we carry out our own ideas. I hope I am right in thinking that we believe that every human being in our country, or in any other country, has a right not only to freedom in the matter of worship and religion, but also to a job by which he may maintain himself and his family in decent circumstances.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. HAIG.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: That is what we, as Canadians, believe. Perhaps you will pardon a personal reference. In 1914 I ran in the Manitoba provincial election in a district where labour received the poorest wages in the province. I called on every home in the constituency, and I noticed that when the men came home to supper their children ran out to meet them in just the same way that my kiddies did when I got home at night. I realized then that among these people there was the same human bond of love that exists elsewhere. We must recognize that fact. Social reform is something that we should study. We should approach it without prejudice and with an open mind, in an effort to get at what is best for our country. You can put more taxes on the rich, and put them almost out of existence; but, while that may give money to the Government, it will not accomplish social reform. You must understand the problem, and you must desire to solve it. That is one thing that we in this House can consider, and it is our duty to do so. If the members of the House of Commons attempt to deal with it, the cry of political prejudice is sure to be raised. We should not be subject to that difficulty. I may remember in a moment of weakness, or of pride, that I was formerly a Conservative; but fundamentally I should be guided, as I am sure we all should be, by the fact that we as members of the Senate are freer than the members of the other House.

Hon. Mr. KING: Honourable senators, I am afraid I have led you into committing a breach of the rules. When I entered the Chamber I understood that the doors had not been opened, and accordingly I made the statement which I did. I had no idea that we were going to launch into a debate such as we have had. That debate has been very useful, and I do not think there is any reason why it should not go to the public. I would suggest, however, that we now proceed in an orderly manner. If it is thought desirable to continue this discussion, it should be continued on the Orders of the Day. I would ask, therefore, that we proceed to the Order Paper.

Hon. C. W. ROBINSON: I do not want to dissent from the views of the honourable leader, but I am afraid that we may miss an opportunity.

Hon. Mr. KING: The honourable gentleman will have an opportunity on the Orders of the Day.

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON: If there are any objections—