

war unequipped? Did it give them insufficient food, or equipment, or clothing, or medical care? Were those men nursed when they were sick, were their wounds cared for when they were struck down? Is the Government at fault in any of these respects? When there were influences abroad in various parts of this country to endeavour to cause the Government to ease up with respect to its war measures, to go no further and to refrain from the last irrevocable step which was necessary if the ranks of our men were to be kept up, the Government displayed the courage of its convictions. Its members took their political lives in their hands. They went to the country. They pledged themselves to that policy which the situation called for and they have carried it out ever since. You ask for proof. Talk with our generals that have lived and fought upon the battlefield. If you ask for further proof talk with the generals of the Allied Army who have seen our men fighting and toiling on the battle grounds. Talk with those who have had charge of the great helping institutions of the war—the nurses, the Red Cross Society, the Ambulance and First Aid organizations, all those activities which go to solace and comfort and healing of soldiers. Ask these authorities whether Canada was to the front or to the rear in all of these respects? I say that no further words are required to prove that the Government has fulfilled its pledge in regard to the war and fulfilled it most efficiently.

The second article in our platform was Civil Service reform; the extension of the Civil Service Act to the Outside Service, with the abolition of patronage, and a preference for returned men in making appointments. That pledge has also been fulfilled to the letter. A National Government has existed in this country since 1867 and the Civil Service has been a subject of debate and examination during all the intervening years. No Government up to the time of the present one has been either willing or strong enough to take hold of the Civil Service and to establish it on the basis of merit rather than on the basis of party patronage. This Government did that. It has passed legislation classifying the Civil Service and has entirely eliminated the power of patronage—has made merit the foundation for appointment, has made efficient work the foundation for promotion. Is the Government to be found fault with in respect to that far-reaching measure of reform?

In respect to a preference in the matter of appointment of returned soldiers, up to the present date 24,000 returned soldiers have been appointed to the Civil Service, of whom 7,500 have been made permanent. In that respect the Government has shown itself strong, and persistent, and faithful to the promise it made.

For many years in this country there has been a growing feeling that the Dominion should have a Health Department. We started out with an Immigration Department to bring immigrants to this country, while all the time death was taking its toll of the young from month to month and from year to year. The finest way to build up the population of any country is to care for the births that take place in it, and to preserve and cause the young life to grow up in a native constitutional atmosphere into good citizenship. What waste there has been in this respect in the past medical men and publicists can very well tell. Well, Sir, this Government has established a Health Department, and has added to it a Child Welfare Bureau, and has followed that up with a Housing Scheme under which \$25,000,000 is advanced by the Government, in co-operation with the provincial authorities, for better housing in this Dominion. Better housing means better homes and better health conditions—longer life, and more life in the homes of the country.

Technical education has been alluded to by my hon. friend (Mr. Cronyn) who moved the Address. In organization measures with respect to technical education this Government has taken the first step. A sum of \$10,000,000 has been appropriated to the purpose. Contracts have already been entered into and are being made with the provincial authorities to put into operation the work of technical education. That is a great step forward. Who denies that in this country there are great hidden forces lying right by our hands of which we are oblivious, but which gentlemen of keen research will spy out and bring to the light, and which the skilled hand of the technically trained man will set into the work of development and progress? These hidden powers are tremendous in a country like Canada, and with resources such as we have these are vitally necessary to the full prosperity and development of the country.

So along with technical education we have the Industrial and Scientific Research Council, a body of honorary members comprising amongst them the best of our scientific men in ability, in training and