

afterwards. But there is more we have to consider in running a country than extravagance with money. There has been, and is to-day, an extravagance with Canadian manpower. To some extent in Canada to-day manpower is being wasted and squandered, and I fear it will be more noticeable later. So far as I am concerned, wasted man-power is of much more importance than monetary extravagances. In this country we have men of great aptitudes and skills who are being left without anything at all to look forward to.

On Saturday I was in a Canadian plant, a crown plant, Research Enterprises Limited, in Toronto. This country can be proud of such a plant. Here it seemed was a living monument to the ability, the skill and the ingenuity of the people of Canada which is now becoming a tomb. Here was one of the outstanding contributions of Canada to the war effort, which was mentioned earlier this afternoon by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. I say it is a plant of which we can well be proud. It has all the modern facilities which one would expect, but much more than that, it has had a very happy relationship between the workers and the management. I would think that other firms might well study the policy which was followed in Research Enterprises Limited in Toronto. The fate of this plant is unknown. I consider it one of the key plants in Canada. When we ask the minister what is to be the future of this plant we have been told—and the answer was repeated a short time ago—that this is a matter which has not yet been decided. I can see no excuse for that attitude. It is high time that this matter was decided.

As I said, Research Enterprises Limited is a crown company, started, I believe, at the instigation of the national research council. It was started to manufacture optical glass, instruments, and certain secret devices. But very early we found that as the war expanded our needs expanded too. With the expansion of our needs there came an expansion of plant. New buildings were bought; new equipment was furnished, and what is even more important, men were furnished. They were trained from the raw material into highly skilled artisans in this country. What is more, we found that there was a latent faculty for invention among our people which we often suspected, and which now we know.

There is one matter I should like to tell the committee about, namely, the case of an internee who was released by the British government, and who got in touch with one of

[Mr. Stewart.]

the chemists of the Research Enterprises Limited plant. He said that *cereo* was used in polishing processes in Europe and it might well be used here. It had not been known to any great extent on the North American continent. I think only one firm was using it. This chemist was a man of some imagination. He carried on development work on this suggestion, with the result that Research Enterprises Limited started to use cerium oxide for polishing, and by their doing so the work was done much more cheaply than by rouge, which was generally used. It was a cleaner material and it cut down costs materially, a matter which I think will appeal to this committee as a whole. Research Enterprises Limited were manufacturing this in Toronto. I think they were supplying other companies in United States with it. I do not know about that, but I see the minister shakes his head. I am told that the manufacture of cerium oxide is now stopped. I am told further that the chemist who was largely responsible for its production has left Research Enterprises Limited and has gone to the United States to work. I do not think we can afford to lose this man from Canada. We can talk about all the money we have, but speaking of money does not mean very much if we are to lose our best brains and our best talents. That is where the minister and his department as a whole have fallen down.

Men have been engaged in this plant for several years learning intricate arts and polishing and grinding processes. These men of aptitude and ability, men who have had long training, are now being laid off because there is no work for them. Their training was such that Research Enterprises Limited could take its place in the same line of production with any plant in the world. These men are skilled and there is no other job in Canada of a like nature to which they can go. When they go on the labour market they are virtually unskilled so far as their employment in other lines is concerned. Their talents and abilities are no longer of use to this country. The men in the union feel strongly about this. They feel that they have something to give Canada and they would like some cooperation from the government in this regard.

Several things which can be produced at Research Enterprises Limited have been suggested by the union. The union has gone into this pretty carefully. The leaders are men of talent, and judging by the record of their plant, men whose advice can be taken with some certainty as being accurate. They