

*The Address—Mr. Graydon*

A social security programme, the adoption of which we advocated, would include in a unified system:

- (a) Unemployment insurance;
- (b) Adequate payments for the maintenance of unemployables;
- (c) Retirement insurance;
- (d) The payment of increased old age pensions, at a reduced age, until such time as the retirement insurance scheme becomes fully operative;
- (e) Adequate pensions for the blind;
- (f) Adequate mothers' and widows' allowances.

7. We advocate the appointment of a Minister of Social Security and Reconstruction, charged with the administration of social security in this country.

8. The state's share of the cost of the social security system should be borne by the dominion.

9. We recognize the obligation of government to make available to every citizen adequate medical, dental, nursing, hospital and pre-natal care, and to further advance public health and nutritional principles so that health may be safeguarded and preserved. This programme is to be financed under a contributory system supplemented by government assistance.

I think it would be of interest to the house and to the country also to have repeated here a paragraph from the nation-wide address of our leader, Hon. John Bracken, delivered on December 21, 1942; it is pertinent to the subject under discussion. Mr. Bracken said:

Every human being that is born into our society has a right to feel that he is welcome in it; that he has a share in Canada; that he is a member of the Canadian team, with a part to play in it, as a citizen in his Canada; that he will be expected to make the most he can of his own life and to make the maximum contribution he can to society; that he is entitled to a job and will receive a reward in relation to his enterprise, and that, in the event of old age, ill-health or other misfortune overtaking him, he will have the assurance of a reasonable standard of social and economic security.

All these minimum standards, however, guaranteed as they may be, are not sufficient. I believe on this occasion I should raise my voice on behalf of the industrial workers across Canada who have one thing very clearly in mind, and justly, I think; that is, if we as a country are able to keep the wheels of industry turning in order to destroy people and property, we must see to it that we keep the wheels of industry turning to provide goods which are not destructive in character, for the peace-time happiness of the people of the world. No matter who may be administering the government at the time, one thing is abundantly clear, namely, that the worker who is now employed must be kept employed when this war is over, making consumer goods instead of the destructive goods of war. Such

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work will be just as necessary and just as urgent then as the work in which these men are now engaged. The worker must have the guarantee that the days of the dole, of relief and of national charity for him are over; that in a new plan our people will have work and will have wages, with good standards of living and happiness, under a democratic system, so that the war shall not have been fought in vain.

Something else must not be forgotten. There are hundreds of thousands of men and women in the armed forces of our dominion, both overseas and at home. Are we thinking of them? To-day these men and women are inarticulate so far as our public affairs are concerned. We do not hear much from the man who has donned a uniform, for very good reasons; but what is he thinking? When the war is over, his thoughts are going to crystallize into one or two very pertinent questions which will be asked of all of us. One of the questions he will ask when he takes off his uniform will be this: "While I was prepared to sacrifice life and limb if necessary for the maintenance and preservation of a democratic system which I thought worth while, what did you do at home which would measure up to a reasonable approach to equality of sacrifice?" Our plans must be so comprehensive and far-reaching that not one of these men, by virtue of having worn a uniform, shall, when he comes back, be in an inferior position, either financially or as to opportunity, than he would have been had he continued in civilian life. Rather he should be in a preferred position, and that must be part and parcel of our plan. If these objectives and many others are not attained, we may yet win the war and fail to win the peace. In the interests of a civilized state and in the interests of democracy it is important that the serious thought and consideration of the government, and of every person in this country, should be directed to what I think is this most worthy and most essential end.

I come now to a matter which has to do with those of us in this chamber; that is, the question of the position of parliament. The War Measures Act gives a somewhat new complexion in a war-time period to our parliamentary procedure. The enabling powers which the act confers upon the cabinet are, I take it, primarily intended for the purpose of meeting emergencies which may arise in the course of the war. Once the government has these powers, I fancy the temptation is great to use them more abundantly and more frequently than was originally contemplated. The result has been that while, theoretically, parliament is still