

these restrictions adopted in the general interest. When he has protested—I have strongly criticized myself, in certain cases—it was because some over-zealous or stupid official had not made any allowances for special circumstances.

However, it is comforting to know that today, the government guarantees that prices now paid for agricultural products will be maintained for a certain period even after the end of the war.

Another fact which the Canadian people will not fail to appreciate fully is connected with family allowances. The speech from the throne states as follows:

The family and the home are the foundation of national life. To aid in ensuring a minimum of well-being to the children of the nation and to help gain for them a closer approach to equality of opportunity in the battle of life, you will be asked to approve a measure making provision for family allowances.

It is said in the speech that the family is the foundation of national life. That is a truism which unfortunately has not always been reflected in legislation, but it is a principle which, if applied to our national life, will give the very best results, provided the needs of the whole nation are taken into account.

The value of a nation lies, indeed, in the sum of individual values of which it is composed; accordingly, it is of prime importance for the whole nation that in each family every child should enjoy a minimum of comfort, medical care and educational facilities so that he may develop fully and become an asset for the nation. During the present war, army physicians have ascertained beyond any doubt that the number of young men physically unfit for military service is much greater among the poorer working classes than among well to do families.

Family allowances and social insurance will remedy a social inequality which has especially affected the children from destitute families, and they will afford to those children, toward whom fate has not been generous, the means necessary for their physical and moral development. Such a legislation derives from the very best Christian principles and it is worthy of the man who can rightly be called the main initiator of social legislation in Canada.

On October 9, 1942, the man to whom I have just referred, that is to say the right hon. the Prime Minister himself, made the following statement in a speech delivered at the congress of the American Federation of Labor:

(Text): Before the war, we talked about the conservation of natural resources. Unhappily, we heard much less about the conservation of

human resources—the lives and health and happiness of men and women and children. To-day, our aim is total mobilization of resources and of man-power for the waging of total war. When the war is over, we must seek, above all else, to use our natural and material resources to conserve human resources—to promote the health and happiness of all the people. Our resources of land, of sea, of forest, and of mine, were given to man by the Creator for the preservation, and not for the destruction of life. The people of no country can be made happy, contented, and prosperous except by safeguarding the lives and welfare of the many, and by protecting from injustice and misfortune the homes of the humble in the land.

(Translation): Mr. Speaker, humanity ranks foremost among all the qualities of the right hon. Prime Minister, and in thanking him for his social legislation, I have no hesitation in saying: In this respect Canada will forever be grateful to you!

In the fine reports presented by the committee on reconstruction, it is suggested that the benefits granted the farmers of the western provinces by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act be extended to the farming classes throughout Canada. Such legislation would materially benefit our farming population and I dare hope that the government will see fit to implement this recommendation of the committee. I have in mind particularly those farmers whose swamp lands would require drainage and those whose farms are eroded or flooded by the rising waters in the spring or during the rainy seasons. I have in mind all those farmers who wish to improve their farms but who, unfortunately, are not in a financial condition to bear personally the cost of such improvements.

In the province of Quebec, the Gobout government is bravely and efficiently fighting the electricity trust, and we hope that as soon as the war is ended the rural areas will be electrified. I would ask the federal government to give this question of major importance to our farmers their immediate consideration and to co-operate fully with the provinces, for electricity in all rural regions would above all else benefit our rural classes and bring them comfort and happiness.

Among the suggestions not mentioned in the speech from the throne but which many figures in the business world have taken upon themselves to present to the Canadian public in speaking on the post-war period, there is one to which I should particularly like to call attention: I refer to the matter of mass immigration which is already advocated in some circles. Fortunately, our present government does not seem to consider at all seriously the exaggerated claims made by those wholesale removers; I should like to congratulate the