

industrial potentiality of plants, processes and products is the first of the major elements to be considered in the post-war period.

The second is that we shall have a tremendously increased supply of skilled labour for industrial and agricultural activity. The industrially employed population of the Dominion of Canada is higher than ever before, and the proportion of the non-military population employed is greater in Canada than in any other country as to which we have exact information, except Great Britain. It may be higher in Germany, but we cannot measure that.

Many of the 900,000 people in war industry have received technical training of a kind, that is to say, they have received training which will greatly increase their productive capacity and earning power. The same is true of the 600,000 in the armed forces. Take a boy who has become an electrician in the Air Force, and who is able to install and maintain the wiring system of a modern bomber. He may not be technically a member of the trade union by apprenticeship, but he will have the skills needed in an area where we will be short of labour. Similarly, in the artillery, the armoured corps, the navy and the radio-finding sections of the air force, the men have received technical training which vastly improves their utility to themselves and to the community. I have watched the training of many of these people who came from farms, and have seen them going out in nine months knowing practical things better than the average university graduate at the end of four years. So our industrial potential is going to be tremendously larger than it now is. Moreover, I think—although this is my personal opinion, with which you may disagree—that during this war we have gone a long way to break down the ancient feeling that white-collar jobs are somewhat superior to technical jobs in the plant or on the farm. That is definitely the case in Great Britain, where a technical man has a feeling of prestige and superiority, and I think it is coming in Canada, where fewer people will want to get into white-collar jobs. I think, too, that our total available industrial and agricultural population is apt to include a larger number of women than before the war. Undoubtedly a good many of the women employed during the war will be apt to marry when peace returns, but judging from experience in this country and in Great Britain after the last war, the number of women in gainful positions will be larger than before. So without question we shall have a larger and abler industrial population waiting for employment.

These two things, the increased facilities, processes and products, plus the increase in the available supply of technically trained personnel, mean a tremendous potential capacity, if we use them.

There are two elements on the other side of the picture which indicate something of that use. First, there will be a large accumulated back-log of demand for goods. That is true of both producer goods and consumer goods. Industries, even those engaged in direct war production, have not by and large been able to take care of depreciation and obsolescence during the present war. They are using their machines incredibly long hours; they have been unable to give them periods of rest or to renew them. They have been unable to rebuild factories for anything except the hard practical reason that a new extension is necessary, and in the case of industries not directly related to the war activities we have had almost a complete shut-down, with the using of stock piles, and in some cases the partial stripping of the plants. Therefore there is going to be a tremendous need for machines, machine tools, and perhaps for actual plant capacity, on the part of a large number of industrial enterprises which have not been able to expand during the war, plus new facilities for peace time usage.

In the case of consumer goods the matter is equally apparent. Housing has been mentioned and emphasized. The deficiency is greater than at any time in the history of Canada. I am told that in Montreal alone we are 30,000 houses short at the present time of the number required, and if you take the whole