

to me that these can be turned to profit by creating a population here much larger than we have at the present time.

If I may, I should like to say what I think the Canadian soldier expects when the war is over, and I intend to give the thoughts of soldiers with whom I have been in contact for the past thirty months. He is fully aware that at the present time his pay and dependents' allowances is on as high a level, if not higher than that of the soldier of any other country. He knows the standard of living in this country is as high, if not higher than that of any other country. Therefore he expects that the income to himself and to his dependents will be on a like level. I know the government is well aware of this. I suggest, too, that pensions might be reconsidered because it may be that the present pension level does not bear the ratio it should to the pay and allowances.

However, when the Canadian soldier returns—I include also the Canadian sailor, the Canadian airman and all the women who have joined the auxiliary services—he will naturally expect his old employment back. We have provided for that by statute. But the house will understand that few soldiers who come back after three years of war will want to reengage in the employment they left. Their horizons have widened, and their ambitions are greater. They would like better employment and, without resentment, they hope they will get it. That is all that the Canadian soldier expects. His own talents are sufficient to do the rest.

I am very glad to see that social insurance occupies a prominent place in the government's programme. Our soldiers in Great Britain have learned that in Great Britain milk and fresh fruits are rationed to hospitals and children, and as a result the health of the children in Great Britain has shown a decided improvement. I suggest to this house that it should be our purpose to see that all children born in Canada have a sufficient supply of these foods at least so that the health of this nation will improve greatly within the next twenty years. It is surprising that with our good climate our health standard was not so very much higher than that of other armies of the world. It is a first essential that the health of this country should be improved, and may I make bold to say that if it requires the expenditure of public money, whether by way of subsidy to maintain the production of domestic foods or to purchase foodstuffs from abroad, it is our duty to provide the money.

[Mr. W. E. Harris.]

Mr. Speaker, we have demonstrated in this country that two great races can live side by side and progress so long as the minority respects the majority and so long as the majority is zealous to maintain the rights of the minority. That is a lesson which has yet to be learned in Europe, and it is a lesson which we should try to teach many peoples. Along with the United States we have shown that political differences do not need to interfere with mutual trade and mutual respect, and I am sure that our two countries can show that we have a higher standard of living on this continent and that we have also the proper approach to post-war planning.

In connection with many of the speeches one hears about democracy I suggest to the house what I said last year, that we represent democracy as it is known in Canada, and in our name there are going to be many sacrifices made this year. I hope, indeed I am sure from the past record of this house, that its deliberations and the decisions made at this session will be on a sufficiently high plane to justify the sacrifices which are going to be made this year, and those decisions I am sure will be directed to making a greater Canada, not for the sake of greatness, but because we can contribute something to the welfare of humanity.

Mr. MAURICE HALLE (Brome-Missisquoi) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that, on the occasion of my maiden speech in this house, I second the motion which the hon. member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Harris), my brother in arms, has just made with such ability and eloquence.

I believe the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. King), when he charged me with this pleasant task, intended first to pay a tribute to the electors of Brome-Missisquoi, who, in this war, as in the 1914-18 conflict, elected to this house a member of His Majesty's armed forces. In both cases, the people of my constituency, willingly forsaking their immediate interests, knew that by returning a soldier they would in all probability have to do without the services of their representative for an indefinite period of time.

Only a few hon. members of this house have been personally acquainted with the valiant representative of my constituency in 1914; but I am sure that every one of us has had the opportunity of admiring the splendid bronze monument erected near the entrance to this house to the memory of Lieutenant-Colonel George Harold Baker, member for Brome, commanding officer of the 5th C.M.R.,