

year or so; the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) told us that the other day. The Minister of Labour (Mr. McLarty) has told us of plans for training thousands of men for the new industries that are now coming into operation; plans which, if I may say so, seem somewhat inadequate. Should the war end with a victory within six months, what are we going to do with these hundreds of thousands of men who will be demobilized from industry, particularly if we add to them the many thousands who will be demobilized from the armed forces of the crown? I fear that unless we are properly prepared, we court great social trouble, almost social chaos. I do not think these men, some of whom have known poverty and unemployment, some of whom have ridden the rods from one end of this country to the other, will consent to be placed back in a position where they will live at a level lower than that of decent subsistence, and perhaps have to ride the rods again.

I am most anxious to see the ablest committee that can be appointed by the government and by this house begin now to make plans for that future day. It may not be—I hope it is not—as far off as we sometimes fear it might be. I noticed a short time ago, I think in the press, a report that the Prime Minister had appointed a committee of departmental officials. This is not enough, although I have confidence in many of our departmental officials. Like the leader of the opposition, when Doctor Skelton died I felt that, without making any comparison that might be taken in a wrong way, Canada had lost its greatest civil servant, a man who served this country as few others have ever served it. Therefore I have no criticism to offer of many of our departmental officials, but they view matters from the departmental angle, and we need a committee with a wider viewpoint.

Finally, I hope our government will maintain and extend its friendly relations with the United States. Indeed, I hope the government will maintain and extend its friendly relations with all the peoples of the American hemisphere. Contrary to the view expressed by the leader of the opposition, I think it an excellent thing that representatives are to be appointed to the principal south American countries. I am glad the Prime Minister is going to appoint someone to take over the load that cannot now be carried by Mr. Christie because of ill health. May I respectfully submit to the Prime Minister that when he appointed Mr. Christie I thought he made an exceedingly good appointment, because it was a well deserved promotion for a man who

[Mr. Coldwell.]

had served Canada well in the public service. I was hoping that the right hon. gentleman might be able to find among those in his department some other trained official who could take over that post in the United States. I repeat what I said a few moments ago. I consider it most important that we should maintain the closest contact with the United States, that we should have representation there able to meet any criticism, of ourselves or of our war effort, of the type to which I referred a little earlier in my remarks.

These are some of the thoughts that we have in mind at the present time. As regards the actual details of our war effort, we shall have another opportunity of discussing them on another measure. All I want to say now is that we hope that the next few months, very difficult though they may be, will result in a victory for our cause, and that in the meantime we may consider our internal conditions and prepare to meet the problems that inevitably will arise when this war ends.

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, I represent a group and a movement which, while a definitely reform movement, advocates something which is almost diametrically opposed to what has been advocated by the hon. member who has just taken his seat (Mr. Coldwell). We do not believe it will be necessary to take away from men the incentive for action, the right to own and control their own property, their own industry. We do not believe it will be necessary to take away from men the right to rule themselves, not only as large units but as smaller units. We believe we have a method which, if adopted and applied wisely and honestly, will accomplish the ends which I have mentioned.

My remarks will have more or less to do with the internal economy of the country. I am going to quote from the Prime Minister's speech three small excerpts which might form a text for my remarks. The first is found on page 806 of *Hansard*:

It is not possible to divorce war enactments and the foreign policy on which they are necessarily based. This is particularly the case at a time of war when both foreign policy and war measures themselves are focused upon the successful prosecution of the war.

With that I entirely agree.

From page 809 I quote the following words:

That the forces of freedom will triumph in the end, I have no doubt whatever. But equally I believe, as I have already so frequently said, that the road is going to be much harder, much longer and much more terrible than most people imagine. We should govern our thoughts and actions accordingly.