

The hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Church), in his speech yesterday, made this statement:

Canada is a country with unlimited natural resources, an abundance of raw materials, a balance of idle labour and capital and the technical resources which can be drawn upon to increase production.

There are times when I do not agree with the hon. member for Broadview, but it seems to me that there he has stated a truth which is vital when we are carrying on a war of production. These natural resources in the hands of a free people are the implements of war which may win the present contest with the German dictator. It has been said, and I think truly, that this war will be won by an attitude of mind. It is clear that the burdens of the war, great as they are and will be, will not be carried indefinitely by the Canadian people any more than any other people unless they are carried with the enthusiasm inspired by a cause. Just the keeping of the German wolf from our door, just holding the Maginot line of democracy-static, is not good enough. We must do more than that. If democracy would be militant it must be on the march, not standing still or holding a Maginot line. It is a mistake to think that our reforms and reform efforts can stand idle and fallow until after the war has been won. With the close of the war will come disillusionment and frustration and the problems of the post-war period. It is a mistake to turn our minds from all social and economic reforms and let them lie fallow until the war has ended. It is positively necessary, that we show to our own population and to the world that freedom has more to give to the individual than has Hitler, and that we hold before our eyes the goal of free men, the vision of a better and kinder and more prolific world in which to live. There is no better time than now for considering some of the things, upon the road to which we have already travelled a certain distance.

At the first session of this parliament we enacted an unemployment insurance measure. It was a grand measure, one of the finest pieces of progressive legislation that has been enacted since the Labour department was first organized. It met with almost no opposition. It will in all probability bring a very great deal of humanitarian good. But why pause? If we are a democracy fighting for the right to improve our social conditions, this is not the time to pause. In the Sirois report was a recommendation for unemployment insurance. But there was a further recommendation that the dominion government should have the constitutional right to enact laws for minimum wages and maximum hours, and

to set the age for employment. Why should we not use this occasion to clear away the constitutional obstructions in the way of our passing a minimum wage law applicable to all Canada? Why should we not clear the way for the enactment of a maximum hours law, at this time when everybody is busy and such laws are in the people's minds? Why should we not now give ourselves the right to set the age of employment? Why should we not demonstrate to the people whom we are asking to support this great war effort that we, the democratic House of Commons of Canada, are interested in their social welfare and that we are on the march? Democracy no longer static; democracy moving forward!

There is a certain challenge, Mr. Speaker, in this war resolution. There is a challenge to us to meet this demand which for the present is for \$1,300,000,000 to meet it with both courage and intelligence—courage to face the task which is now presented to the Canadian people and intelligence to carry out that task successfully.

There are three thoughts I would like to leave with hon. members in closing these remarks. The first is that more important than almost everything, certainly everything economic, is the positive necessity of winning this war. I need not elaborate that statement; it would be futile to argue it, but first and foremost the requirement placed upon the shoulders of all of us is to win this war. Secondly, to defeat the armies of slavery we must preserve the freedom of action of our own people; freedom to produce—elbow room, if you like—and therefore freedom to fight. The third thought I have partly expressed already. If democracy is truly to win this war, democracy must strike its tents; it must be on the march. It must march in freedom to a better freedom. It cannot be static. We must march forward with our heads up and our banners flying if we are to carry our people with us triumphantly through the difficulties of this war. This, Mr. Speaker, is a war in which victory must be won by the heart as well as by the head and the hand.

Mr. H. C. GREEN (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, earlier this afternoon the house seemed to be sailing into somewhat stormy seas. However, the winds—and I use that word advisedly—have now subsided and we are in smooth waters once more. Under such favourable conditions I hope to place before you to-day one proposal which I believe would be of great help at the present time. I should like to give my reasons for this proposal rather carefully and deliberately and perhaps not as briefly as I might do in other circumstances.