

## NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS — (Continued.)

under our Flag. We have a right to be proud of that. We are proud of them, and we honour them for it, and we will continue to honour them for all ages to come. This condition of affairs had the effect of setting back our industries all over our country. Conditions have changed. A new set of conditions were presented to the Canadian people. They had to be met, and it is true that our industries, in a measure at all events, were rescued by the large War orders that came for munitions to be manufactured by the various factories and works in all parts of our Dominion. I would like to say a word here in respect to this matter that I regard as a very serious condition, and it is this. I am sure that you have all read a statement which was published the other day by the Munition Board of the City of Ottawa as represented by Mr. Flavell and Mr. C. B. Gordon of this city, in which they draw the attention of the Canadian people to the fact that it was apparently impossible for them to have their orders for munitions filled according to contract and at the specified time. I am sure that you all agree with me when I say that I regard this as indeed the most serious condition of affairs. For, we must remember that we have 350,000 to 375,000 of the bravest and the best of our sons who have gone forward voluntarily to give their services to their king and their country, and in defence of your liberty and of your freedom and of my liberty and of my freedom. Now, how can these best and bravest of our sons succeed if we don't supply them with the necessary munitions of war, and surely we are not going to rest under the stigma that in this age of war we are going to fall short of fulfilling our duty in so far as we possibly can to render these gallant men every assistance that it is possible for us to do. It is true that peace has its victories as well as war, and those who remain at home to assist in the manufacture of the necessary munitions and to assist in the work of other firms incidental to the manufacture of those munitions, are performing a service to humanity equally as important as that of the individual who has gone to the front, although of course, not so spectacular and not so worthy of applause and of appreciation in the common sense of the term. But, I say again that peace has its victory as well as war. Unless those who remain at home to till the soil, produce abundant harvests in order that we may be able to send the staff of life to England, to France, to Italy, and to Belgium and to Servia, and to the allied world, the efforts of the fighting men would not avail. We have accomplished well and truly our duty in this respect up to the present, and I am satisfied that that duty will be fulfilled until the end of the war. But, Sirs, we are face to face with this serious condition, with respect to munitions. It is a situation that requires consideration at our hands, and consideration at the hands of this great and important assembly as representing all the municipal organizations from one end of Canada to the other. I say, Mr. President and Gentlemen, how can we stay here in the reflected glory of the achievements of our gallant sons who have gone forward, and who have as soldiers proved themselves to be worthy of the best traditions of the best. I say, how can we sit here in their reflected glory, and feel there might be something we could do that has not been done,—and according to the statement of the Munitions Board, there is evidently something which could be done, which must be done, which has not been done. We have hundreds of thousands of good able bodied men walking our streets who may not be fit and who may not desire to enlist, and go to the front, but surely they are capable of taking off their coats and assisting in the manufacture of war munitions in order that those who do risk their lives and go to the front will be properly supported and properly supplied. This to my mind is the serious condition of affairs which must be corrected almost immediately. The Government has adopted a form of general registration so that we will be able to list the names of individuals who are capable and who are physically fit either to take their places in the firing line or in the manufacture of munitions to assist those who are in the firing line. Gentlemen, with this organization and with union and co-operation we will finish the fight some day, in my humble judgment we will finish before very long. I am sure that you all agree with me when I say, that the allied powers owe it to civilization, owe it to the world, to see that Germany's unholy ambition is thoroughly humbled before the question of peace is even discussed. But, when that day that will bring us the blessings of peace, arrives, we as Canadians will then find ourselves again

beginning the upbuilding of our own common country, Canada. We have a country of great diversified conditions, and a great deal remains to be done. It will not do, to sit back and wait and prepare for peace after peace has come, that it did do for us to prepare for the war after the war had come. We have abundance of men in Canada who are neither physically fit to take their places in the firing line or who are not physically fit to go into the work of war munitions but they are the men best capable of fulfilling the task of assisting to prepare for peace. Why should they not now devote their energies not applicable to war conditions, to the great task of assisting in preparing Canada from the financial, industrial and commercial consequences which will follow the end of this great war, and which this war has let loose on all mankind. This can only be accomplished by the general and united action of every loyal citizen within the borders of our Dominion of Canada, and when we have this assured we will accomplish that great task, and with that energy we will prepare our plans which will enable us to take up promptly once again the task of making the Twentieth Century Canada's century.

We have no time to spare, and we should get ready at once. We should take advantage of the great opportunities which are before us. If we are to fulfil our duty, there is a great deal to be done, not alone for Canada, but for Great Britain, the Allies, and for the entire civilization of the world. The task which we have in hand can be described in one word, "Preparedness." It is to my mind an all important matter to the Canadian people. It is true that our industries will be disorganized by the shutting off of orders for war material and we must see to it that they will not be allowed to remain idle. We must get busy through industrial museums or some other equally effective means by which we can ascertain in every detail what manufactured articles can be made in Canada that we have been paying others in the past to make for us. We have an abundance of raw material, natural products, cheap powder and capable labour in our country, and there is nothing too intricate, nothing too difficult for us to undertake. In my humble judgment a few millions judiciously spent now in making this preparation and in educating the people, will give us many millions in wages and many millions in dividends through all future ages."

"Then there are the farmers of our country, the backbone of our nation. They are the first in the line of our forces to capture the immigrant. When the immigrant ships come laden to our shores, they are not filled with thousands of bankers, manufacturers or mechanics. We make no effort to induce skilled labour to come here. These ships are filled with thousands of prospective farmers. We must have practical demonstration farms, on which to place war worn Europeans who have an inclination towards farm life. When I draw your attention to the fact that we have in the three Prairie Provinces of Canada over three hundred millions of the finest land that has never yet been touched, you can realize how great are our advantages, how much we can offer to those who would like to take their part in the farm life of our country. We produced in these prairie provinces last year something over 800,000,000 bushels of the finest grain, and one of the advantages of the war—if you can call anything which comes from war an advantage—is that the grain has found its way into every part of the allied world, and has there won for itself the admiration and recognition of all those who have used it. I say that it is the duty of everyone, bankers, railway men, wholesalers, lawyers, doctors, to assist in preparing for the boom in population at the end of this war. In this way we can make our country so prosperous that it will not feel the obligation of our war debt. Fifteen millions of our people will carry lightly what would weigh heavily upon seven or eight millions, who are doing nothing to promote their national growth. Everybody will be immeasurably more prosperous and we shall not be compelled to stand by in envy and see prosperity after the war monopolized by our American neighbours, but we must realize that the industry and skilled population of Europe are being taken from the settled dwelling place of past centuries, that at the close of this war there will be flung into the outer world, like so many swarming bees, and the question will be for them where will they find new hives. The neutral nations will have their hive doors open and very attractive will they make them appear, but I am satisfied that we in Canada possess the most promising hive of any part of the civilized world,