San Francisco Conference

our people or the peoples who have suffered this infernal war for five years, be willing to make the same sacrifices to maintain peace? Among the plans and specifications which the united nations conference to be held at San Francisco will consider, many will concern the best ways to ensure world peace, to prevent war among nations. Numerous measures will be investigated to establish an organization entrusted with the task of ensuring security and applying penalties on any nation guilty of aggression. Care will also be taken, unless I delude myself on the nature of the work to be undertaken in San Francisco, to organize the economical life of the various countries so that they will be satisfied without having to covet the property of their neighbours. Such a result, I believe, is feasible. The united nations, it seems to me, could ensure through their organization a sound economy for all the nations.

Everyone will admit, I think, that Canada has done wonders in controlling her economy since the beginning of the war. It is true that numerous restrictions and controls have been imposed, and that the heavy taxes which our people have had to pay have entailed sacrifices on their part.

But, on the other hand, if it has been found possible to develop our production to the point where our soldiers have been supplied with everything they needed to wage war, never before have we been so prosperous and have we seen so much money being spent. If it is possible to so adjust the economy of a country in war time in order to attain full production, to provide employment for all our workers, to allow our farmers to achieve maximum production, then the same thing could be done in peace time if the same men who go to San Francisco, and who have so well succeeded in organizing the economy of their own country, endeavour to organize the economy of the world at large.

Indeed, not only have the countries which have united to wage war been asked to produce to the limit of their capacity, but international pools have been organized in order to provide each of the united nations with the raw materials and other supplies needed to prosecute the war.

As it had been realized that some of the united nations were short of certain products while others had surpluses, offices were set up in Washington, which are called "combined boards." in order to supply each country with the necessary foodstuffs. Those countries which had an over supply could not dispose of them without authority from the Com-[Mr. Fauteux.] bined Food Board, at Washington, on which there were representatives of the united nations, and from Canada.

There is also an office for the control of machinery and tools and all that is needed in industry to help those countries where shortages or oversupplies exist.

Why could not such controls continue after the war in order to provide work and food and ensure the comfort of the population of the varicus countries? You will recall that a few years ago—and it is unthinkable that such a situation could be allowed to prevail in a civilized world—wheat growers of Western Canada did not know what to do with their grain while. on the other hand, in other countries, such as China for instance, thousands and millions of people were starving to death. Likewise, a few years ago the United States government paid bonuses to farmers to kill their hogs in order to prevent over-production while in other countries starvation was rampant.

Often enough people are asking themselves, and rightly so, especially in urban centres, in cities like the one in which I live—Montreal what will become to-morrow of the numerous war plants where thousands and thousands of people are employed. When victory has been achieved, when we no longer need to produce tanks, aircraft, war materials, to what use will the plants be put, what will become of these workers?

The answer that comes to the mind of many is that farm implements, automobiles, radios, electric refrigerators or other appliances now indispensable in households and which at present are scarce, can be manufactured. However, a question one might also ask is: What shall we do with such goods at the end of two or three years when the people's needs have been met, if there is no export market?

A peace organization whose object would be to ensure international cooperation in the solution of international humanitarian problems in economic and social fields, or in other spheres could take action with a view to raising the standard of living of millions of people in China and in India, so that they might become purchasers for all commodities we could produce and which are to be found everywhere, even in our most humble homes, and which would be quite useful to them. To my mind, the San Francisco organization, in raising the living standard of those people, in endeavouring to improve economic and social conditions in all those countries, would accomplish efficient work for preserving world peace.

When people are unemployed, when they can find no work, and cannot earn a living, they are prone to listen to demagogues who