

that he could promise that within a year there would be an immigration into this country of men like ourselves, representing an addition of 250,000 adults to the working forces of Canada, he would have made a statement such as had never been made in Canada, or in any other country in the world. And if he had followed that up with the statement that in the succeeding year there would be an immigration of men like ourselves, knowing our institutions, understanding our laws, familiar with our social, intellectual, and moral habits, adding in the course of two years 500,000 working adults to the productive power of this country, that would have been a statement surpassing in interest and gravity the one to which I have just alluded. But does it make any difference whether the statement shall be made in that form or shall be in the inverse form, that in two years during which this war shall have been carried on 500,000 adults shall have been abstracted from the productive forces of this country? That is the first point to consider and it is one which I would like the country to consider very carefully.

More than that, during those same two years something else has been taking place. There has been a diversion from productive, beneficent labour into lines of labour and work which are not beneficent and productive, but which are maleficent and hurtful. Tens upon tens of thousands of men have been diverted from normal and beneficent, productive work in this country and have been set to the work of making munitions of war for the purposes of the destruction of life and property. In this destruction of life and property, the only redeeming thing which can be said about it is that they are defending the life and liberties of the Empire and fighting for the cause of human freedom and liberty. But from the economic point of view, my argument stands that this diversion has taken place. Something more has taken place in that time. Not only has there been this diversion and abstraction of productive labour, but there has been no compensating inflowing current of immigration. To a young country like our own, a country situated as Canada is, that is one great source of growth and advancing strength and prosperity. Outside of the natural increase, and coming from suitable sources, the strength and prosperity of the country are enhanced by an inflowing population, adults and others, which mingles itself with, and becomes

co-operative in the production and development of the country. For these two years of war a very small amount of that current has flowed in and Canada is bereft of the invigorating and progressive force and enterprise which are derived from such sources. But, in addition, capital and equipment and capital for the purposes of equipment have been diverted to and employed in the work of making munitions of war and therefore is not employed in normal productive industries. This is a factor which has also to be reckoned with. In addition, financial conditions will have been so changed, that when peace comes we shall be met with a different situation as regards enterprise and industry from that which existed before the war. Money will be harder to get, interest will be higher, the cost of Government and of administration will be enhanced and all these are factors in the obtaining of capital and in the working out of enterprises for which capital is necessary.

Now, you say that this labour, or a great deal with it, will return. Let us consider some factors in regard to this. Of these 500,000 adults who will have gone from our country some, unfortunately, will never return. That will be human energy entirely lost to this country. Another considerable portion of those who return will be totally, or partially, disabled and will therefore be, in one way, a burden which we will all love to bear, but yet an economic burden upon the country; or they will be reduced in point of worth and efficiency in the productive work of the country. The men who come back after two years of the life in the trenches, with all the strain, the nervous and physical shock, the endurance and privation of war, will be different from the men they were before they went to the war. Will these men quickly settle down to normal operations? Will they be as effective as they were before? Any way there will be a period, more or less lengthened, during which there will be a process of adaptation and of change from the old—though it is only two years old—to the new and something like the normal conditions that preceded it.

Now, this is just a rough statement of the facts upon one side of the case. Are we thinking about this situation which faces us when the war stops? The moment the war stops the doors of every munition factory will be closed and the help that was gathered, and which worked therein, will