

I believe the speech from the throne was disappointing to the people of Canada. It was long in words but fell far short in concrete announcements of any action to be taken by the government to remove or remedy some of the difficulties we are facing to-day, difficulties having to do not only with the war but with labour, farm man-power and matters of that kind. I am going to support the amendment. Why? Because in contrast with the speech from the throne it sets out some definite proposals, and definite results to be attained if those proposals are carried out.

My chief interest is in agriculture. I believe you will agree, Mr. Speaker—because I have had the honour and pleasure of sitting in the house with Your Honour for some time, and under your speakership—that since coming to the house I have consistently and on numerous occasions, either by resolution, motion or constructive suggestion, brought to the government of the day proposals which, had they been accepted and put into force, would have meant much to the producers I represent. The principles at least of some of my proposals have been accepted, a fact I view with some satisfaction.

I believe there are only two other hon. members in the house who sat on the committee in 1935 to consider the wheat situation. The Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston) who, I regret, is not yet in his place on account of an unfortunate accident, served on that committee. I had much to do with the work of that committee, and I recall vividly the fight I made for 90 cent wheat, and the compromise of 87½ cents which was made. While my suggestions have not always been accepted immediately, I have had the satisfaction of witnessing the acceptance of my proposals a year or so after they have been made.

May I recall one or two proposals which I expect will be adopted at this session, only a year after my suggestions. Our first duty as members of parliament is to do all we can to further Canada's war effort and the winning of the war. All other things count for naught. In the language of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) speaking at the time of the last victory loan, nothing counts now but victory. That is the way we should approach this session.

What is Canada's war effort? Are we satisfied with it? Can we do more? Are we prepared to do more? These are some of the questions we must answer. I am prepared to give credit where credit is due, because it is well known that we began this war from

[Mr. Perley.]

scratch. I believe that the constructive criticism from this side of the house in 1940 made the government realize we were in a real war, with the result that they began to get busy.

In a review of the situation from 1940 I stated last year that there are two forces of prime importance, namely, the armed forces and those of production. All credit to our armed forces. All credit to the gallant men from western Canada, and from all other parts, who volunteered as soon as war broke out and who are to-day in that magnificent army overseas. Credit is due those men for the way in which they entered the forces and the work they are doing.

In so far as production is concerned we realize at once that this war is quite different from that of 1914-18. We must have vastly greater amounts of munitions and food. In 1940 and the early part of 1941 we were passing through a period of organization of production for our armed forces. That organizational period is over. In the early part of 1942 we were making good headway. I will give credit to the government for making headway, although possibly they were prodded by the opposition. The fact is, however, that progress was made, until we have now reached the period of peak production, or the production of almost all that is necessary. The supplying of materials is the responsibility of the government and the different boards who have this matter in charge.

I believe the farmers throughout Canada have done practically everything asked of them by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner). They have responded nobly, and that response is to their credit. We have increased our food production almost to the point required. Possibly this brings us to the question of man-power and woman-power.

I was interested yesterday in hearing the hon. members for New Westminster (Mr. Reid), for Souris (Mr. Ross) and for Peterborough West (Mr. Fraser) refer to a women's land army. Canadian women, especially the women in western Canada, deserve considerable credit for what they have done. If I had the time I should like to relate to this house the particulars of the work done by women in harvesting the crop in Saskatchewan, particularly in my own district. I have seen women in overalls and sweaters driving stook teams and doing their part in the loading of sheaves in the field. They would bring them up and when they could not unload them at the separator, someone else would take over. On one occasion I saw a woman drive in sixteen miles with a truckload of 121 bushels of wheat. The one bushel was put on because that was the final bushel in her husband's quota. It