

ways, knowing that their work would be for the general good of their fellow-citizens. If this is beyond the ability of our democratic government to arrange, then—God help Canada!—the day of the dictator is in sight.

I cannot close my remarks at this point. May I suggest to this honourable House what I think should be done if we are to survive the present high tide of public expenditures by the various governments in Canada, federal, provincial and municipal—expenditures which in the aggregate are adding at a tremendous rate to the public debt of our Dominion, now estimated at over eight billion dollars.

I sometimes think the agitation with regard to our railway deficits is overshadowing and obscuring the larger public expenditures, which apparently are leading only to further despair. Governments in Canada are spending in the aggregate probably \$150,000,000 a year on account of unemployment and relief, and there is practically nothing to show for this expenditure beyond a very marked deterioration in the moral status of our citizens. It has been stated that 200,000 young Canadians pass the age of 16 every year. It is reliably estimated that some 350,000 young Canadians between the ages of 18 and 30, most of whom have come to working age since the depression began in 1930, are to-day rotting on the doorstep of unemployment. What is more valuable to a country than the high standard of its citizenship? Even war cannot be more important, and, as honourable senators know, we should probably spend the greater part of a billion dollars in our first year at war. Many other issues of first magnitude confront us. Honourable members know them too well to require me to enumerate them.

We have appointed a number of boards during the last few years, but the most important of all is seldom if ever discussed. I refer to a National Planning Board. We continue the same old method of appropriating public moneys which was adopted at the time of Confederation. It is as out-of-date as the British North America Act itself. We appropriate for the immediate needs of the country without any fixed objective in view. We dawdle along, content with a hand-to-mouth policy, and without any fixed plan for the future. The citizen who lives only for the day is of little use to his country. The business man who does not look ahead, if you can call him a business man, soon comes to grief.

We have before us a very striking instance of the need of future planning in the estimates for this year. First, we have had the main estimates, secondly the supplementary estimates, and then the special supplementary estimates—three attempts which still do not include the millions since voted by Parliament.

A survey of the supplementary estimates shows that they, like the "gentle rain from Heaven," fall all over the country. They are mostly for public buildings, post offices, dredging, wharves, docks, and even drainage schemes. They bear the earmarks of the members of Parliament who, recognizing the demands of their electors, feel they must "bring home the bacon."

Canada should establish a Department of Works on the principle of the British Department of Works, which expends the sum voted by Parliament where it is most required, keeping the national interest in view. British members of Parliament have practically nothing to say about this expenditure. Such a department would not only get efficiency in our expenditure, but would relieve members of Parliament from much of the pressure from home to which they are now subjected, and would leave them more time to devote to the major issues before the country.

The Federal District Commission at Ottawa presents an ocular demonstration of planning ahead. From year to year, as the plan proceeds and the scheme unfolds, we all realize the advantage of this well-thought-out and consistent development which in the end will make our Capital City the beautiful city it should be.

This planning for the future is one leaf we might take out of the dictator's book. Russia started with a five-year plan; Germany next adopted a similar plan; Italy has been following along the same lines. These three nations have been making progress.

There is much need for a National Planning Board in Canada. Our system of government as it exists to-day leaves no time for the working out of a forward-looking policy, and provides no means of gaining public support of a programme hastily arrived at. A National Planning Board would be composed of a number of citizens, drawn from different parts of the country, who for patriotic reasons would be glad of the opportunity afforded them to give much of their time to national planning. They would take all national problems into their deliberations, in a programme covering at least five years. They would consider the avenues through which the capital required could be secured, and the question of taxation to raise the money. Their annual report and recommendation to the Government and Parliament should be invaluable. With a maximum tenure of office of ten years, and a replacement of one or two members each year, the work of this board would be continuous and would extend over the life of many parliaments—a very important consideration for continuous work. If it is the opinion of honourable senators that in