

*Supply—Defence Production*

problem that I see in the province is that we want to increase our facilities—I mean road building, hospital facilities, and things of that sort. If we are to do that we must be assured of a stable population. We must have the people there to pay the taxes. We do not want, every time there is war or a rumour of war, our population getting out of our province and leaving us helpless in that regard. My point is this, that we can establish permanent industries there, if we have the help. I admit we are getting some, but I would back up the statement of the hon. member for Moose Jaw, that we are not getting sufficient.

**Mr. Wright:** Mr. Chairman, to follow up that line of thought, I believe that in Canada most of our industries have begun as small shops, from which point they have developed. That is exactly what we are trying to persuade the minister to do, so far as Saskatchewan is concerned today. We have some small plant and equipment in various towns which we believe could be used for subcontracts. I am free to admit that we have not the power facilities to operate large plants and equipment. Only when we have been able to develop some of our power facilities in Saskatchewan will we be able to industrialize our province to any considerable extent. However, we do have many small shops, small industries which, with some encouragement and some contracts, could be developed into thriving industries to help in the production of the implements of war. Those industries would be available to enter peacetime production following that of wartime.

I believe that is about the only type of industry which could be developed at the present time in Saskatchewan. In other words, some of the smaller plants could be developed into larger plants to assist in the effort to rearm. It is because of the failure to do this in the last four or five years that the hon. member for Moose Jaw and other hon. members from Saskatchewan have been anxious to see something done.

I have before me the public accounts for the year 1949-50 which show that in that year, for the acquisition, construction and purchase of property the army spent \$53,604,000. Out of that sum there was spent in Saskatchewan only \$30,100.36. Of that amount one contract for \$19,000 was let to a Winnipeg firm.

Then, on the same item, namely for the acquisition, construction and purchase of property the navy spent \$40,688,000, but not one dollar was spent in Saskatchewan. On the same item the air force spent \$77,502,575 and again not one dollar was spent in

Saskatchewan. These figures are a matter of record, and they are disturbing to those of us from that province. I suggest there should be an attempt to distribute our industries to a greater extent than now obtains. If war comes there is every expectation that there would be bombing, with the resultant disorganization of industry; and this condition would be greatly lessened if our industry was distributed more evenly across the dominion.

That is one of the major arguments. Then, added to that is the problem of housing which develops when large concentrations of people are placed in eastern Canada. From 1941 to 1944 there was an exodus of people from Saskatchewan both to the west and to the east, and we are anxious that that condition shall not be repeated. We hope we shall be able to keep our own people and develop our own industries. It is only by starting at the bottom, by starting with the small shops and giving contracts so that they may expand and become industries in time that we can hope to diversify our industries in Canada.

While I am on my feet I should like to say a word about raw materials. It seems to me we are facing two major difficulties in the world today in our preparations for defence. One of these is the distribution of raw materials and the other is the standardization of our equipment. We find many of the European countries in the Atlantic pact are having difficulty in obtaining the necessary raw materials to enable them to make a real effort so as to carry out their share of the burden. I do not know what our government is doing; the minister will know. It seems to me however that we have been competing against each other for scarce raw materials in the last year. As a result of that the stronger nations are in a much better position. Yet sometimes we sit back and criticize other nations which are not as fortunate financially or with regard to raw materials as we are because they are not able to carry on an effort equal to ours.

It seems to me there could be much more co-operation among the countries of the Atlantic pact in the matter of the distribution of raw materials. Unless there is co-operation we will not get the best results from our endeavours to build and re-equip our armed forces so that we can have a reasonable chance of maintaining peace.

On the matter of standardization, for the life of me I cannot see why we should not have more standardization in our equipment than we now have. The reasons for the lack of it surely cannot be military alone, because military reasons would indicate that we