

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I ask my hon. friends to mention any other country. Will they say that in Great Britain they are in a better position as far as housing is concerned? Will they say that in the United States they are in a better position? Will they say the position is better in Belgium or in Holland; in Australia or New Zealand, South Africa or anywhere else? As a matter of fact when one compares Canada with these other countries in the matter of housing we make a better showing, in relation to our numbers, than any other country at the present time.

Mr. MACDONNELL: Give us some figures to prove it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend's leader is the one who made his statement to begin with, and perhaps he will give us his figures.

Mr. MACDONNELL: Give us the figures.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If my hon. friend will just bide his time he may get his chance for leadership, before his life is over.

The leader of the opposition next spoke about food production and agriculture in general. I would again ask him: Can any hon. member in the opposition point to any country in the world which has made a finer contribution in the last few years than has Canada, and which to-day is continuing to make a finer contribution in the export of food stuffs to help other countries?

Then my hon. friend found fault with controls. Again I wish that he might take a little more to heart what other countries are saying about Canada in this respect. I wonder what country would not give a great deal to be in our enviable position, because of our anti-inflation policy and the successful manner in which it has worked out? Will any hon. member mention any country which has dealt more successfully with that most difficult of all problems, namely, the combatting of inflation?

The truth is that my hon. friend has not stopped to ask himself where this country would have been but for the government's policies in all these matters. I ask the people of Canada to think deeply on that point when they are asked to express condemnation by those who are saying the government has failed in this, failed in that or the other thing.

All one has to do is to compare the relative costs of living in Canada with those in any other country of the world to realize that in Canada the government's policy has been a great help to the masses of the people, and has

been more successful than similar activities have been in other countries. That is the kind of emphasis that is needed.

My hon. friend has said that we failed to do this and to do that. The truth of the matter is that my hon. friend has failed to grasp what our policies—framed not at the last moment, but years in advance—have meant to Canada, and what they mean to-day.

Had we not introduced and passed at a previous parliament legislation setting up the Department of Health and Welfare, with its administration of family allowances, and the Department of Veterans Affairs—again, administering the best measures for veterans to be found anywhere in the world—my hon. friend would have found a situation very different indeed from the one to be found in Canada to-day.

Had we not provided in advance for the Department of Reconstruction, to replace the Department of Munitions and Supply, thereby making preparations in advance for the work to be carried on most effectively in the post-war period, I wonder where we would be to-day. And may I add this—and I do not think the fact will be disputed,—that the Liberal, Conservative and every other political party in this country is loud in its praise, and rightly so, of the magnificent work done by the Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe). In like manner the veterans of this country are loud in their praise of the magnificent work done on their behalf by the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Mackenzie). War veterans to-day have in Canada a charter all but completed, in which is to be found legislation related to the many sides of their work and of their lives. Again I say the like of this is not to be found in any other country.

My hon. friend did say he approved of the loan to the United Kingdom, and I was pleased to hear him say that. I believe he appreciates, as do all thoughtful persons who have given study to the condition of the world to-day, the sacrifices made by Great Britain during the war, and the position in which she finds herself to-day in seeking to meet her obligations. I believe it is realized that if Great Britain is to be maintained in a position where she can play a helpful role among the nations, then she must be re-established in a way which will help toward that end.

My hon. friend spoke of a gift. This is not a gift; it is a loan. True, it is being made for a long period of time; and I have no doubt in the world that as my hon. friend has said if the loan were not made this country