

offhand that there should not be any trouble in deciding into what category this man should be placed. I should like to remind the house that at the time the registration was being taken, the then Minister of National War Services explained that one of the reasons for taking the registration was to enable the government to tell the people where to go, to direct the people who were unemployed to find employment in industry, to enable people who are employed but trained for one particular type of work, to fit into another industry where their best contribution could be made.

The particular case I wish to discuss is that of a veteran of the last war, a man still in his forties, a mechanical draughtsman by trade. He has kept in touch with his profession while he has been on the farm. He wrote to me well over a year ago asking that he be given information as to where he might be able to make a greater contribution towards the war. I took his case up with the Department of National War Services and they agreed that this man had unusual qualifications and should be able to make a greater contribution than he was making in the particular industry in which he was then engaged. But they said they did not have the machinery to place him. They felt, however, that the employment agencies in Ontario would have no difficulty in directing him to employment. I got in touch with the employment office in Ottawa, and they said, "We have no suitable opening here, but the employment office in Toronto, Hamilton or Windsor will no doubt be able to place him." I communicated, in turn, with these other employment offices, and it was suggested that as my friend was in the west, he should communicate with an employment agency in the west, which would relieve him of the necessity of coming east. So I wrote to Winnipeg, and the employment office there said that in view of the fact that this man resided in Saskatchewan he should apply to the office at Regina. I then wrote to the office in Regina, and they said that in view of the fact that this man was living in the west and that all the war industries were in the east, he should apply to some agency in the east. So we were back to where we started. But my friend, a very patriotic citizen, is not satisfied to be staying on the farm producing what has been described as a drug on the market—wheat. He asked me to take his case up again last summer, and I have a letter here from the Wartime Bureau of Technical Personnel dated November 24, 1941, and referring to a letter they had written to my friend on September 27. Nearly two months after they had written him, they

wrote me saying that there was a definite shortage of mechanical draughtsmen, and they said:

It is quite possible that if he happened to be so located that he could conveniently make application in person to some of the larger organizations engaged in essential war industry, he would be successful in securing a position.

But he is not so situated. The letter goes on to say:

I believe you will understand our hesitation in making such a suggestion to Mr. _____, or to anyone who happens to be so located that he will have to incur fairly heavy expenses in order to present himself at places where his services might be needed.

Would we say to a man who, at some place a long way from where fighting is going to take place, offers his services as a soldier: "We are sorry, but it would cost a lot of money to send you from here to where the fighting is going on, and we do not want to put the country to that expense." Of course we do not say that to the man who offers his services as a soldier. And here is a man who risked his life in the last great war and is now impatient at being kept on the farm and being unable to make a greater contribution in this war. Yet we are told that we should not go to the expense of moving him to places where employment might be found and where he might make a greater contribution.

I replied to this letter, giving a review of this man's case, and went on to say that I hoped the department would understand my difficulty in assuring my friend that Canada was doing everything that could be done and should be done.

I believe that without any further delay we must have a comprehensive plan for agriculture. Next week a delegation will visit this city from western Canada, a delegation that is being sent here by the hard-pressed people of Saskatchewan. Certain newspapers have suggested that if these men can find money to travel to Ottawa conditions in the west cannot be very difficult. Those who make this suggestion do a great injustice to the people of Saskatchewan. The contributions to send these people here will not average twenty-five cents per person, so that the suggestion is most unfair. I think it is unfortunate that it should be necessary for these people to come to Ottawa in order to get from the government an outline of a plan and to secure a fair deal. I remind this house that we are making plans for the development of our war industries, but we never say to a manufacturer who is making planes or tanks: "We are sorry that there is no other market for your product in the world to-day, so we will give you half of what it costs to produce it."