

to discuss rehabilitation and reestablishment measures instead of proceeding with measures designed to prosecute the war. They argued that if we lose the war, any rehabilitation plans we may adopt will be of no avail. I do not agree with that attitude. I am not a defeatist, and that is a defeatist attitude. We will win the war; I am confident of that. I know that in the long history of the British empire on many occasions she has lost serious battles, but always she has won the decisive victory and dictated the terms of peace. I remember that in the first great war Admiral Cradock lost a whole squadron, except one ship, in the reverse at Coronel. We were driven out of Gallipoli with great loss. General Townshend lost a whole army at Kut al Imara, but we experienced the satisfaction of Scapa Flow. In this war our first great loss was at Dunkirk, then Hong Kong and then Singapore. But I have implicit belief that God in His infinite mercy will again vouchsafe victory to our arms, and that again we will have the pleasure and honour of the equivalent of a Scapa Flow. I say therefore that the minister is doing a worth-while service when he brings in a bill looking to the rehabilitation of our returning soldiers. Through its plans the government is making at least a start in that direction.

The cabinet has set up a special committee consisting of five of its ministers to study demobilization and reestablishment after the war. It has set up also an interdepartmental committee on demobilization and reestablishment. And outside—I do not know whether or not the government is responsible for this, but it may have had something to do with it—a committee on reconstruction has been formed, to consist of educationists, labour leaders, leading industrialists, business men and others. In addition there is the British dominions immigration society which I hope will cooperate with the objective of the bill later to be introduced by the Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. Mackenzie). I refer to the measure to settle returned soldiers on the land.

I should hope that after the war we would be in a position to bring out hundreds of thousands of those heroic soldiers from the old country, and that we might settle as many as possible of them on the land. Then, there is the British Empire Service League reconstruction committee. It would seem therefore that the work of these groups or committees, when added to the operation of the bill which is later to be introduced by the Minister of Pensions and National Health, and the operation of this bill, ought to develop something which would make im-

possible the dire conditions which followed the last war—conditions about which I shall speak a little later.

When the minister moved second reading of the bill on February 23, he made a brief statement to which for a moment I should like to refer. These were his words, as reported at page 807 of *Hansard*:

In my opinion the measure will provide for the orderly reinstatement of tens of thousands of men.

I hope that was just an expression of opinion, because we will have to provide not for tens of thousands but for hundreds of thousands of men. I suggest the word should have been "hundreds" instead of "tens". The minister nods his head, and I am pleased to note that he agrees with me.

Then he spoke about the British bill, the National Service Act of 1939, and made particular reference to that portion of the bill dealing with the armed forces. I have read that bill carefully, and I am convinced that in some particulars the bill now before us is a little better. There are one or two points however in the British bill to which I shall direct the attention of hon. members, and which seem to me to be a little better than our bill. Then, the minister may be able to tell me a section in the bill now before us which would be equivalent to the enforcement section in the British bill.

As I said at the outset, however, in my view this measure should go a great deal further. Conditions in Great Britain are to a great extent different from what they are in Canada. In the first place, Great Britain is a highly industrialized country. I should think that there is a greater population within a radius of twenty-five miles from St. Paul's cathedral than there is in the whole of Canada. They have thousands upon thousands of factories, some of which I have visited. Conditions are different in Canada, because we have only a few highly industrialized areas, and the majority of our people live outside the industrial areas.

I observe that in the United States a programme of works has been introduced, and I should hope that if not in this bill, then later, the minister might institute similar projects. I shall make further observations along these lines at the proper time. In other words, the government of the United States through its department of labour is planning means to provide hundreds of thousands of jobs apart altogether from those offered in industry. I am sure the minister has that in mind for discussion later.

I should like now to refer briefly to the bill itself, and shall deal only with the