

money in this way. Naturally, the answer of the Finance Minister is that this is a provincial matter and entirely under provincial jurisdiction, and that the Dominion Government does not wish to invade the provincial field.

In peace time that answer would probably be sufficient; but under war conditions, such as exist to-day, a great many people feel that that answer is not good enough. As you all know, this Government has power under the War Measures Act to invade any provincial field; indeed, it has not hesitated to do so on more than one occasion since war broke out. I venture to say that if it were a question of securing more funds for the Dominion treasury this field would probably have been invaded long ago. But as restriction would mean less money from this particular source, rather than more, the Dominion Government says, "We will leave it to the provinces." Well, we have nine provincial governments with perhaps nine different viewpoints on this subject; so in all probability nothing will be done unless the public as a whole make their views known.

I am not discussing this matter to-night from a moral standpoint. That is another thing altogether. I am looking at it for the moment purely as a war problem and, as such, a Dominion responsibility. The Minister himself said during the debate in another place, "Purchases from liquor stores are fifty per cent higher than they were the year before the war." If that were true of any other luxury or non-essential civilian purchase, the Government would step right in. Indeed, it would have stepped in long ago. Why make an exception of this one particular commodity?

We were told recently by the Director of National Selective Service that an additional 250,000 men and women will be urgently needed for war industries during the next few months, but no one seems to know where these men and women are to be obtained. At the moment crops are left unharvested and farms untilled in many places for lack of help. This is essential war work, yet it is being curtailed because of scarcity of labour. Perhaps I am not very well informed, but I have yet to hear of any brewery or distillery being forced to close for lack of labour. On the contrary, this class of business seems to be better than ever.

Contrast this with the plight of the farmer in both Eastern and Western Canada to-day. In the debate on Bill 80 we heard something from the honourable senator from Wellington (Hon. Mr. Howard)—whom, in passing, I should like to congratulate upon a most excellent address—on the shortage of farm

labour in the province of Quebec. The shortage extends all across Canada. I have here two clippings from yesterday's Press. One contains a statement from the President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, in which he says:

More food products will be lost in Ontario this year than ever in the history of our province, due to a labour shortage.

Hon. A. L. BEAUBIEN: In what paper was that?

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: It is an extract from the Listowel Banner. It was reproduced, I think, in the Ottawa Morning Journal.

And from the Journal I have a clipping headed: "Farmers face a reduction in available labour. But production must be increased, Gardiner says." The article goes on to say:

Increased Canadian farm production is expected this year with the existing labour force, and a further reduction of those available for farm work must be expected.

In other words, while the President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture says what those of us who are in touch with farm life, as I and many other honourable senators are, know to be true, namely, that produce is being lost to-day for lack of labour to harvest it, the Minister of Agriculture says that farmers must produce more next year with less help. Will any honourable senator explain how that can be done? I know of one example, which I will cite to counterbalance the one cited by my honourable friend from Wellington (Hon. Mr. Howard). I know of a man in Western Canada, sixty-five years of age, who is all alone on a grain farm of 640 acres, and who has considerable stock as well. That is typical of dozens of cases. Will anybody say that these men can do more than they are already doing? Yet we must have the additional bacon, cheese, butter and other foods that are required.

May I be allowed to make the suggestion that the Government use the power which it possesses to comb non-essential industries for labour to help in essential war work and farm production before it asks men who are already doing the work of two men to increase their efforts.

Then, so as not to forget my own sex, may I remind honourable senators that women are being urged to economize in every possible way in the home; for instance, to buy fewer clothes and no house furnishings at all unless absolutely necessary. The slogan adopted by women's organizations all across Canada is: "Use it up! Wear it out! Make it do!" The reason for this is twofold: first, to release money to buy bonds, and, secondly, to release labour for essential war work. With all this