

The speech from the throne indicates that this will be a session of post-war planning along with the maintenance of our present war effort, and in this connection I should like to say that one of the greatest things that we can do is to continue the close relationship that we have with the United States. We are greatly indebted to the United States for the efforts she has made in this war, and we shall be more indebted as time goes on. At the same time the United States is indebted to us for having maintained Great Britain with food and supplies from the fall of France to the end of 1941. In this mutual respect for each other's contribution lies the greatest hope for our future relationship, in particular in connection with our trade arrangements with the United States.

Some three years ago the people of this dominion were called upon to choose a leader for the coming four or five years. At that time many reasons entered into the choice, but I think there was one on which we all agreed, that is, that at that critical time in our history it was essential that we should have as a leader of this country some one who was well known and whose talents and honour were respected in the United States and in Great Britain. If that were true then, as it undoubtedly was, it is equally true at the present time, because in the post-war period, being among the united nations which will plan the future, Canada will need someone with experience and who is held in the same high regard by the nations which will make the decisions.

There has been some undue optimism about the duration of the war. There has been some quite sound optimism over the conclusion of the war, but it is unfortunate that many people, some of whom have the public confidence, have been making guesses as to the duration. This past summer the German army launched one of the greatest offensives in military history and caused grievous loss to our Russian allies and made great gains. If at the present time the German army is retreating and forfeiting most of those gains it is not due to the cracking of that army; it is due to the heroism and military wisdom of our allies and the material support which this country, Great Britain and the United States have given to Russia. There is no sign in my opinion of the German army cracking permanently, nor is there yet any sign of the morale of the German people cracking. We should carry on the war on that basis and with that belief.

As the war proceeds it will be inevitable that along with our allies we shall redeem certain lands now occupied by Germany. The north African campaign demonstrated that along with carrying on military efforts it is necessary to supply food for the civilian population, and this will be necessary with other civilian populations that we temporarily take under our control. Only the United States and Canada have the means to do this. It is fortunate that we have set up a joint committee of our agricultural departments so that we may work in conjunction with the United States.

It seems to me that despite the discussion this afternoon about our surplus of wheat, it is essential that we produce more food in this country, perhaps of other kinds, in 1943 and 1944. To do this it is necessary that the farmer obtain more labour than he has at the present time. I am sorry to say that in my own constituency the production of food fell off slightly during the past year. It would have fallen off more had it not been for the extra efforts of the farmers themselves. I know that this is a great problem, but I know that the government realizes its importance. It is a man-sized job, and I notice a man-sized man is taking care of it. But if my own riding is to be taken as a sample of rural Ontario, I assure the government that they cannot expect increased production unless some labour is provided for the farmers.

I do not presume to make suggestions to the committee on post-war planning, but I should like to refer to the great numbers of people in Europe who undoubtedly will want to come to this country when the war is over. Many look back upon the period of 1900-1910 as the period of greatest progress in the dominion, but many people said that we could not assimilate the people who came here at that time. After the last war there was a similar opinion that the large numbers of people who entered the United States could not be properly assimilated into their population. The test of both these worries has come during this war. Many of the people who came to this country from Europe and many of their descendants are in our armed forces, as great a percentage as the percentage of those who came from the British isles. The same condition obtains in the United States. I do not think we need to fear the coming to this country after the war of the people of various races. As has been said many times, we have exceptionally large quantities of raw materials which are awaiting manufacture and export. It seems