

War Appropriation—Mr. Graydon

the government. I do not think there is one hon. member who did not expect we would get more than that. I thought we were at last going to mobilize everything in Canada for this war effort. Yet I see it will be April 1 before they have counted the cards down here in one of the buildings that they have for that purpose. That is not good enough leadership in time of war. We may put up with these things in time of peace, but I suggest that if we are ever going to win this war we must adopt a different scheme and different strategy.

Then I heard the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Church) make some reference to the bureau of information. I do not know who gets out the information supplied by that bureau; I do not know anyone connected with it. Some of the information the bureau sends out may be good stuff; some of it is important; but as the hon. member for Broadview said, there is a lot more bureau than there is information. I just picked up this morning my bulletin from the Department of Munitions and Supply. Is this an example of the leadership we are to expect in this war? It is dated Ottawa, February 15; we did not get it too early, but the news of February 15 may still be important. It reads:

Apparently some 147,000 hens are valiantly at work in the national service striving to meet the daily needs of the forces, according to an announcement made to-day by the Department of Munitions and Supply, which stated that 8,818,896 eggs were purchased during the last quarter.

It may be all right to mobilize the hens after we get the rest of our resources mobilized, but we should put some other first things first. I suggest that the government look into the whole matter of this bureau of information and other departments of government and see whether we cannot have more of our material resources mobilized and put in shape for our war effort before we bother with the lowly hen, who is going to lay eggs anyway regardless of the bureau of information. I see the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Cleaver) looking interested; he has some hens that are even as good as those we have in Peel.

I am sorry the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. MacKinnon) is not in his seat this afternoon. I know he is a busy man; he will be excused by everyone. But not very long ago he conducted a trade mission to south America. The resolution of the Minister of Finance indicates that this \$1,300,000,000 is required for many things, including the extension of trade. Without further delay we should have some real report from the minister as to the success of that mission to south America.

[Mr. Graydon.]

I have seen many criticisms with regard to the mission and the way in which it was carried out, and more particularly in one of the financial papers to the effect that one great south American country did not receive the same treatment so far as trade concessions were concerned as was received by Argentina and Brazil. I think the minister should without any delay acquaint this house and the country at large with what we may expect in the days ahead by way of trade with our great south American neighbours.

I close my rambling remarks this afternoon by simply making this suggestion to the government. After all, whether we are ordinary citizens or members of parliament, there is not one of us whose heart does not bleed for the sufferings and privations endured and the cruelties inflicted upon the people in the motherland. Those people who are going through those hardships are not strangers; they are our own people. It is not of the men in the armed forces that we think entirely; they are prepared for hardships and sacrifice, but it is the women and children, the aged and infirm who have had to bear the brunt of the damage and hardship and such ruthlessness as we never thought in years gone by would be possible at the hands of a neighbouring state. While at the moment we are safe and secure on these shores, in all our deliberations and in all our war activities and legislation, let us bear in mind that our first aim should be to do all we can for those men and women over there who are holding the front line for freedom and righteousness and Christianity. Our job is to back them up to-day as never before.

O, how the words of the Prime Minister of Great Britain ring in the ears of every Canadian! Speaking of the tremendous achievements of the Royal Air Force last September, he said:

Never in the realm of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.

So, whether we be government men or opposition men or to whatever group we belong, let us stand together as Canadians and Britishers in this great combat and take as our watchword the words of that great leader of the British people when he said:

We shall go on to the end.

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): It seems to me that before this debate closes, there are one or two things more which need to be said. I should like to commend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) for the work he has done up to the present time. Under the system of finance which he is following, I would say he is doing a good job; he is holding prices steady; he is holding