

a great misfortune if we were all of one mind, if we were all of a single government group. A virile opposition is a valuable spur to any government, and I only wish that the opposition in this chamber at the present time came closer to the number to be found on the government side of the house. I believe that would be of great advantage to the government and to the country at this particular time.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Time will cure that.

Mr. COLDWELL: Perhaps it will, but I am thinking of the situation at the moment.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): That is where the strengthening is needed.

Mr. COLDWELL: This is a war of machines; therefore the contribution that we can make in the industrial field is, I believe, the best contribution that we can offer at the present time, and it ought to be our principal effort. But if that principal effort is to be carried through, as it ought to be, then we must remember that those engaged in making these machines, those engaged in industrial labour, are as vital to our war effort as the men who are at present training in uniform. We shall make a grave mistake if we do not take labour into our confidence at every phase of the war effort.

I listened, as some others here this afternoon did, to Sir Walter Citrine when he addressed the Canadian club in the Chateau Laurier some time in January. He made it abundantly clear that the reason why British labour had foregone some of their old rights and privileges was that they had absolute confidence in their leaders and were organized to the fullest extent. They were thus able to discuss their affairs with the government and with employers' organizations on an equal footing, and consequently industrial difficulties that arose had been ironed out.

One of our misfortunes is that in our country to-day labour is only partly organized. I have heard it said that it is not more than twenty per cent organized. It may be more than that, but in any event it is not fully organized. Yet we find that there are economic Bourbons in Canada who are trying to prevent the organization of labour. If they only knew where their own best interests lie, they would encourage the organization of their employees in order that there might be an instrument with which to iron out industrial difficulties. If industrial troubles arise in Canada in the future, they will arise not from the fully organized labour groups, but from the sporadically organized groups without the experience of the great labour

organizations which could give them the sort of advice they ought to have. If our war effort is to be successful, we should see to it that we do not allow discontent and dissatisfaction to permeate the ranks of any part of labour in this country.

One other factor I should like to mention in connection with our war effort is the condition of agriculture. After all, we have in Canada several million people who are engaged in various agricultural pursuits. To-day their principal product is not needed, because war has cut us off from the markets of the world. A short time ago I again saw huge piles of wheat lying out under the snow in the part of the west which I represent in this house. I know of one man who has a pile of wheat sixteen feet deep, containing over sixteen thousand bushels. There it lies, covered with sheaves, out under the snow. I am not saying that this is the fault of the government; I am pointing out that men in that situation have piles of wheat but have not the necessary money with which to buy those commodities that are essential to the welfare of themselves and their families.

I would urge the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. MacKinnon) and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) to let these men on the prairies know now what is expected of them during the coming summer. Here it is February 24; in less than eight weeks in the constituency which I represent men will be seeding their land. It is not too early now to give them an indication of what is to be expected of them. If we are going to have a quota system, then let our people know what their quotas will be in order that they may make their plans accordingly; for, as I have said in this house before and as I repeat to-day, those quantities of food piled high, which appear to be a liability and a drag upon the market, ere the war ends may become an incentive to the distressed and starving peoples of Europe to rise against their masters in order that they may receive a portion of the bounty which nature has showered upon us. Therefore, in our war effort we should not overlook agriculture but should see to it that agriculture receives proper consideration at this time.

I have one other point I want to place before the house. We must begin at once to prepare for the conditions that are going to come upon this country after the war. When I think of what may happen when the war ends, it seems almost like a nightmare. We say we are going to place an additional three hundred thousand men, and perhaps some women, in industry in the next