

more concerned about the production of some other commodities. The answer is to be found in the history of the last twenty or twenty-five years. During that time certain nations tried to make themselves self-supporting or self-sustaining, and the penalty was the building up of the greatest war machine the world has ever known. I am not one of those who would associate himself with the idea that appeared to be in the mind of the hon. member for Lethbridge when he suggested that unless we did certain things, unless we provided ourselves with the commodities that we might be able to obtain from some other part of the world, we were going to find ourselves some day in the midst of another war when we would not be able to obtain the things we have not been able to obtain easily during this war.

I want to say that the only principle which will end war is the principle that the people of every country should put all their force to work producing the commodities that they are most suited to produce. They should produce them in abundance and then they should exchange those commodities with the commodities that other people can produce to better advantage than anyone else. If we all do that there will not be any necessity for war. People fight for food; people fight for shelter; people fight for clothing, but give them the things which they desire to have and which they need in order to live, and people cease to fight.

We have proof of that in the history of the British empire, since they adopted the policy of moving commodities as freely as possible. We have proof of that in the United States where forty-eight states have joined together instead of living on half the continent as half a dozen different countries, and where there is the freest movement of their products among the different states that is to be found anywhere in the world. The same principle is being demonstrated again to the peoples of the world through the different conferences and activities that are being carried on in connection with this war. In my opinion, the only principle that is going to establish that period of peace for which we are all hoping is that very principle which is accepted by peoples of liberal minds and people of conservative minds in Britain, by free men generally and by democratic countries the world over. I hope that as a result of this struggle which has brought us all nearer to one another in distance than we ever were before, these principles may be applied to the whole world and, if they are, I am convinced that we shall have the resulting peace that we all desire.

[Mr. Gardiner.]

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Bradette in the chair.

On section 1—Short title.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Mr. Chairman, on this section perhaps I might be permitted to say a word. I refrained from taking part in the discussion on the second reading of the bill because I felt that there were many in this house who were much better qualified than I to discuss the important subject matter of this bill. I am surprised that the minister has just made the type of speech which he has on a bill which, so far as I could observe, had no partisan considerations invested in it.

Mr. GARDINER: You should have been here this afternoon.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): At least I did not approach the consideration of this bill on the theory that it was a partisan bill or that there would be any attempt made to make political capital out of its provisions. I regret that there has been injected into the discussion of the bill a spirit of partisanship which I believe is entirely uncalled for.

It has been urged on many occasions by many bodies, especially those interested in agricultural production and distribution, that having regard to the depressed conditions of agriculture in that great period of depression which began in 1929 and followed on for a period of ten years, and that great period of deflation, some steps should be taken by this legislature to prevent a repetition of that disastrous era. With that theory I was in full accord because I know as a representative of a semi-rural community of the disastrous nature of that period to the whole national economy. I had given some thought to this very problem and I was hopeful that with the staff at the command of the minister, those versed in economic problems and especially the problems of agriculture and the economic aspects of production, and especially of distribution, a scheme would be evolved for the peace-time period to which we are all so devoutly looking forward that would have brought some specific remedy for the situation which may be envisioned as time goes on.

I recall the statements which were made in the speech from the throne. I recall having read the speech of the Minister of Agriculture in London to which he referred this morning; I recall other declarations which have been made from time to time on this subject matter, and recalling these things I thought something affirmative would be produced which would lay down certain principles by which