

that industry by promoting housing, reconstruction, the building of roads and so on. To-day there is no construction going on. The Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe) is trying to build some houses, but that will not relieve the situation. If the minister wants to give this bill some basis, let him revive the original housing scheme and see that some funds are made available for housing after the war.

I notice one defect in this bill. What about these apprentices? In the British bill there is a provision concerning apprentices which I do not see here. Large numbers of young people were learning trades in many different branches of industry. After war broke out, some of these industries were driven to the wall because they were not war industries, but there are many key industries which have numbers of apprentices, who would qualify under the bill if they had a chance. I should like to read a short quotation from the British *Hansard* of February 20:

Mr. Parker: asked the Minister of Labour whether he has made arrangements, or will do so, for young men in reserved occupations who, in response to public advertisements, volunteer and are accepted for air crews to complete their interrupted training and apprenticeships after the war in order that those who survive may not be penalized for their patriotism?

This was the reply of the minister:

Mr. Bevin: In cooperation with the British Employers' Confederation and the Trade Union Congress an invitation is being addressed to organizations of employers and work people and to joint industrial councils and trade boards asking them to consider now the post-war position of apprentices and others whose training has been interrupted by war service.

In his last sentence the minister said:

The problem arising can best be considered in the first place by the appropriate organization and by joint machinery in each industry, and the result of this examination will be reported to me. No doubt the industries concerned will pay regard in the course of their examination to the special position of the men referred to by my hon. friend, as well as to other special circumstances.

I do hope the minister will consider the position of these young people from seventeen to twenty years of age who have given up their jobs and enlisted.

There is one other matter, with which I shall conclude my remarks. I want to refer to the position of trade and commerce to-day, inasmuch as the government has not laid down any policy in that connection. The success of this whole scheme will depend upon the rebuilding of industry in this country, so that after the war is over, it may be in a position to employ some labour. If an employer has no work and his trade is taken

away from him, how can he carry out any agreement of this kind? I have referred to one particular industry. I could refer to small retail stores, larger establishments, and all that sort of thing.

I believe the government must consider the whole question of trade and commerce. The other day my respected leader referred to a remark made by the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Michaud) in regard to the trade agreements then under consideration. One of the main things upon which the minister should rely for the success of this measure after the war is the balance of trade between this country and Great Britain, which now is not what it should be. One of the ministers (Mr. Michaud) is reported to have said that after the war we would not have to sell anything to Britain. In the past Great Britain has been our best customer. We never shall be able to make a success of this measure, and employers and employees who come under it will get no benefit, unless we get back that trade. But we may have some difficulty in getting it back because these agreements we are making with other countries are going practically to establish free trade and so injure those businesses which might qualify under this measure. The British preference, the preference to our most reliable customer, has been abrogated. During the five years it was in effect it increased trade between Britain and Canada by forty-five per cent, creating work for employees and employers in the large industries, which had to expand and build additions all over the country. Where are those industries to-day? They are not here now, but they would have benefited substantially under this measure.

I hope the minister will consider some of these suggestions. First of all, he will have to revive and reestablish industry. There is no use in just passing an act and having it remain a mere scrap of paper. You can go on and talk for the next three months or six months about what you will do when peace comes, but we do not know anything about it. All the countries that have been invaded by Germany will have a say in the peace treaty. All the countries that have been ruined by the axis powers will have something to say. There is the United States; there is Russia, and all the other countries I could mention. Here we are passing rules and regulations and considering what should be done after the war, but in the end it will be only moonshine, and we shall have to start all over again. Let the government look into its own business, with the large number of employees it now has. Why should there be some few people wearing uniforms all over Canada, for which

[Mr. Church.]