

then I say it should be good enough for the poor man who does not come in either of those categories. Furthermore, anyone who has a large family will appreciate that as a result of our system of heavy indirect taxation, our sales tax and so on, the bigger your family the more you pay in taxes every time you have to buy anything for your family. Certainly if you have to buy eight pairs of shoes you are going to pay far more in taxes than if you have to buy only one pair. Then if war comes we expect the young lad belonging to a large family to go out and risk his life equally with the boy from a small family, though perhaps the one lad may not have had nearly the same chances in the way of education and so on. If the state claims the right to ask a boy to give his life, then it should guarantee to him a minimum standard of well-being in childhood.

I commend the government most heartily for the other proposals to provide more social security contained in the speech from the throne, but I cannot now take time to mention them, because for a moment I should like to deal with the war effort of this country. We now have in our army some 470,000 men, in our navy some 70,000 men and in our air force some 185,000 men, a total of 725,000. In the women's branches of these services we have enlisted more than 37,000, a total of both men and women in the services of more than 762,000. Unfortunately, we have had casualties (not including the wounded) of over 19,000. More than 1,000,000 persons are working in war plants and associated industries, while another 2,100,000 are engaged in agriculture and essential civilian employment. About seventy per cent of all males in Canada fourteen years of age and over are in the armed forces, in war industry or in essential civilian employment.

I have not time to give the figures I should like to give in regard to the great contribution agriculture has made, but production has been stepped up to a marvellous degree notwithstanding the depleted numbers of those engaged in this occupation, depleted by enlistments in our armed forces and entry into war industries. For example, our milk production has been stepped up from some 15,000,000,000 pounds to 17,400,000,000 pounds; the production of creamery butter has increased from 254,773,000 pounds to 312,310,000 pounds; our beef production has increased from 618,000,000 pounds to 886,000,000 pounds; our feed grain from 456,000,000 bushels to 734,000,000 bushels, and our flaxseed from 1,508,000 bushels to 17,911,000 bushels. In each instance

the first figure represents the average for the period from 1935 to 1939, and the last figure the production for 1943. Our shipments of bacon to the old country amounted to 330,000,000 pounds in 1940 and by 1943 that had risen to 675,000,000 pounds.

In regard to our production of munitions, I feel that it represents almost a miracle of organization and accomplishment. Canada should be proud of the whole organization, from the minister to the youngest lad in a munitions factory. We have already produced, since the beginning of the war, 80,000 artillery units, a million machine guns and rifles, 600,000 military vehicles, 55,000,000 rounds of heavy ammunition, three billion rounds of small arms ammunition, radio equipment to the value of \$308,000,000, five hundred naval vessels, over 200 merchant ships, with a total tonnage far exceeding 2,000,000, and over 9,000 aircraft.

I should like now to say a few words with respect to the accomplishments in connection with the commonwealth air training plan. Under that scheme we have now turned out over 50,000 aircrew. In recent months we have been turning out each month more than twice the number of pilots who fought and won the battle of Britain. May I also pay tribute to the minister of that department, who, particularly in those difficult days in 1940, kept the plan going, even under circumstances where it seemed almost impossible to do so.

I should like to say a word about finance. The total cost of the last war was \$1,670,000,000, and that figure covered the cost of demobilization. The cost of this war, estimated to March 31, 1944, will be \$10,824,000,000. The successful fight against inflation is not only helpful now, but will make much easier our reestablishment after the war is over. I am particularly happy that this great programme has been financed without having to resort to borrowing from abroad, because the interest we shall have to pay on the debt will remain in Canada, and will be subject to future taxation. Further, we have drained off large profits due to the war, to help pay for the war, another procedure for which I must commend the Department of Finance.

There are a great many other aspects of our war effort upon which I should like to comment, had I time to do so. I have in mind particularly the industries of fishing, lumbering, transportation and mining, each of which has made a magnificent contribution to our war effort.

I believe no one will deny that Canada's contribution to the war has been titanic; but, more important is the fact that our effort came at a time when it made all the difference