

Mr. Speaker, in my humble opinion, in order to develop within the mind of every subject of this country, to whatever racial group he may belong, the legitimate and commendable pride of being an outright Canadian citizen, it is necessary that concrete symbols of his Canadian citizenship be given to him. A distinctive flag and a national anthem constitute the greatest of these symbols and they will serve as a stimulant to the external manifestations of the love we have for our country. Once those two great projects have been carried out, the people who are entrusted with education in the nine provinces of this country will perhaps agree, at least I hope so, to consider another no less important project, which would consist in making available for our students a uniform textbook of Canadian history. It should not be a history doctored so as not to offend certain touchy people, but an impartial and complete history. It would be to the benefit of every citizen of this country to study such a history dealing jointly with the two great races that form our nation. Our greatest educators have always attached considerable importance to training through the study of history. If this science is shorn of certain prominent facts, it loses its formative value. The truly Canadian soul is shaped through the knowledge of valourous deeds as well as of past errors.

Mr. Speaker, we must win the peace in the economic field as well. To this end, we must without delay reconvert our war economy to a peace footing. Let us thank God that the government have initiated their efforts in this field before the close of hostilities. That our country was not taken by surprise on the seemingly unexpected surrender of Japan at this early date and the complete suspension of hostilities which had kept our people on a war footing for the last six years, is due to this commendable forethought of the administration. Among the measures already enacted and in force, I shall mention the Unemployment Insurance Act. A crisis in the employment situation may easily be provoked in the transition period; in fact, I understand that it already exists in certain districts. The conversion of our war plants to peace industries, following the cancellation of large war contracts, the accelerated demobilization of our armed forces, and other transition activities, cannot take place without a certain decrease in the demand for man-power.

The Family Allowance Act is another social measure which the last Parliament passed at the appropriate time. The advantages of this measure are many. It constitutes a new application of the principle of reducing war taxes in proportion to family responsibilities

[Mr. Langlois.]

and it also has the merit of assisting the poorer classes, taking family obligations into account. It will offset a possible decrease in wages and raise educational standards, making it possible for a larger number to benefit from longer periods of schooling.

We must think first of rehabilitating and reestablishing our soldiers and, here again, the government have fulfilled their duty. On the return of our veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs was already in full operation. I realize that temporarily uncontrollable circumstances, the lack of trained personnel among others, have delayed the normal operation of this important service. The task was far from easy, especially while the war was still being waged; however, I hope that peace will permit this department to operate with the greatest efficiency at a very early date.

Mr. Speaker, if one class of our citizens is more deserving than others of the greatest interest on the part of the government, it is that of the war veterans. We have the obligation, not only of reestablishing them after a fashion in civilian life but also of guiding them in their new callings. I hope it will be possible to increase the scope of our vocational training services, which I consider essential. Our young men leave the army without experience of normal life and are therefore easy targets for speculators; they are readily attracted to new experience which may be disastrous for them and society in general. On their leaving the forces not only should they be thoroughly informed of the advantages offered them, but they also should be advised by specialists in the choice of a career according to their respective skills. I shall make another digression here to praise the government and especially the Hon. Minister of Transport (Mr. Chevrier) for their practical recognition of the valorous services rendered by the members of our Merchant Marine in granting them a service allowance based on the length of service. They have well deserved of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, we have also witnessed the inauguration of the Department of Reconstruction. This service has done a considerable amount of work both in the field of planning for the future and in implementing certain measures for maintaining industrial employment at a high level. The creation of the War Assets Corporation, the rapid reconversion of our industry, the inauguration of the Industrial Development Bank and the National Housing Administration, the promoting of greater credit facilities and more extensive banking services are reconstruction