

experts can bring forth appropriate measures. But I know something of how they deal with things at the front in France, and I say they should be dealt with as summarily back here in Canada. If the penalties meted out to youth can be so severe, I suggest that the penalties for the cruder and coarser types of profiteering during war should be equally severe and equally decisive. In passing I suggest to the authorities one way, for what it is worth, in relation to gains acquired during the war: that anything acquired during war-time over the average normal income of a man over the past five years should be the property of the Dominion of Canada before you start taxation at all. I close my remarks on this branch of the subject with the statement that my conduct in this house will depend largely on the measures that are taken in this matter. The people are determined that there shall be a greater measure of equality of sacrifice, and I am confident that the government will give effect to this paramount demand of the Canadian people.

I have said that confidence and faith are essential. I know of nothing more important than the unity of our country. We want a united Canada; we want all parts, all sections, all races, all creeds, all people in Canada to march step by step in the spirit of a great national endeavour.

Permit me, Mr. Speaker, to refer to the fact that I served in the ranks during the last war, as did other members of my family; and I voted against conscription. I do not know what my thoughts on conscription are at the moment. I have thought that possibly a fairer, more effective and more practical realization of efficiency and a better balancing of our power and strength could be attained by some such measure, but I say now that if it is in the interests of the unity and the co-operative effort of Canada from coast to coast to do so I am prepared to make a concession in that regard, no matter what I think.

In passing I ask permission to refer to a news item and a radio broadcast of about a week ago, in which it was stated that young Italians rushed the canal guard at Sault Ste. Marie and were repelled. That, Mr. Speaker, was a wholly inaccurate and unfortunate dispatch, which did a gross injustice to a fine body of loyal Canadian citizens. Such reports, unfounded and carelessly disseminated, will not make for unity in this country. Let us have faith that our Canadian citizenry will do their duty according to their best realization of what that duty may be.

[Mr. Hamilton.]

Another thing we must have is the organization of our industrial life for war purposes. This applies also to other phases of our productive capacity, but for a moment I want to emphasize this: lack of war material is paid for in human lives. To-day war is largely a matter of material and equipment. Without it man power is incapable of doing very much; with it man power is capable of doing tremendous things. Those of the Canadian forces who recall the inadequacy of equipment and material at the beginning of the war, which gradually became equality and then superiority, have some knowledge of what that means. I conceive, therefore, that one of our first duties in this great struggle is to establish a body of able men, under vital and aggressive industrial leadership, to bring about our maximum efforts in this regard. In passing I should like to recall—and I trust I shall not be considered as saying anything with particular reference to my own community—that during the last war many opportunities for swinging our industrial capacity into action were neglected. For a long time the great industry in my home town had no opportunity to participate in the production of war material, though eventually it contributed over seven hundred thousand tons of shell steel for the purpose of making munitions. So I say we should have a body of men that can organize our industrial life and bring it into effective action.

I should like to express one other thought as to the mobilization of our man power. The mobilization of man power surely means more than the recruiting offices in our towns and cities. I know, as I am sure other members and the various departments of the government know, that thousands are offering their services individually, as groups and as organizations. Unless the services thus offered by anxious people throughout the dominion are analysed and considered as a national contribution they may be put aside and advantage may not be taken of them. It occurs to me, sir, that there should be some method by which such people, who may not be capable of joining the armed forces, should be able to have their abilities and qualifications analysed and then used to the best advantage in the effort we are making. Perhaps I might give this simple example in passing. I have close to a hundred letters addressed to the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Mackenzie), which I am to deliver to the minister, offering the services of individuals, groups and organizations. Some of these organizations—knowing as I do something of war—offer services which are vital to this dominion. Such offers should be