

out for themselves. True, perhaps this programme was never completely put into effect, but they did succeed in securing legislation at least as favourable as that adopted in any other country, or as that recorded in the statutes of any country totally unprepared to solve the problems raised by the return of such a large number of military men to civilian life.

If some old grumblers have at times felt an aching bitterness in their proud, great souls, they none the less at the outbreak of the present struggle spontaneously offered to serve once again their native land. And to-day we see them in the ranks of the veterans' guard, and on active service in England and in several other posts outside Canada, just as we find those who, declared unfit for overseas service, much against their will have been stationed at vulnerable points in Canada, or, armed with Tommy guns or machine guns, keep watch over prisoners of war.

At this point may I be permitted to quote a few verses by Alan Horwood, published recently in the *Legionary*. They are these:

Their faces now are etched with lines of care;  
The hoar-frost of the years is in their hair;  
But sagging shoulders stiffen in salute  
As youth swings by; but in their eyes the  
muted  
And hopeless longing for the days when they  
Marched to the bugles of another day.  
They say that the old soldier never dies;  
And that is true; till under sod he lies,  
His martial spirit flames on undiminished  
Till death blots out the light, and all is  
finished.  
They did not shrink from duty when once  
more  
Dark war clouds loomed, more deadly than  
before;  
They vied with youth, eager to do their share  
Of service, here, abroad, or anywhere.  
And those the years had touched with  
gentleness,  
Are serving with the troops in battle dress;  
Holding the line, until to son and sire  
Victorious bugles sound the call "cease fire."

To all my dear old comrades of the Veterans Guard of Canada, and particularly to that distinguished gentleman, Colonel H. R. Alley, worthy commander of the guard, may I at this moment pay the heart-felt tribute of my deepest admiration.

(Translation): Reverting to the speech from the throne, which is the subject matter of this motion, I desire, Mr. Speaker, to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the government for the outstanding place they have given to social legislation. They seem to have left no field unexplored. I wish to quote part of the speech from the throne:

Post-war planning falls naturally into three broad fields: preparation for the demobilization, rehabilitation and reestablishment in civil life of the men and women in the armed forces; the reconversion of the economic life of the

nation from a war-time to a peace-time basis, and its reconstruction in a manner which will provide opportunities for useful employment for all who are willing and able to work; and the provision of insurance against major economic and social hazards.

A broad programme has already been developed for the reestablishment of veterans of the present war, and for the care of disabled veterans and the dependents of our fighting men and merchant seamen. You will be asked to approve a measure to provide war service gratuities for all who have served in the armed forces, and also measures to supplement the existing rehabilitation programme.

It is also foreseen by the government that if the country is to be spared another period of unemployment, those industries which now produce solely for war purposes will, immediately after the cessation of hostilities, have to be rapidly converted into peace-time industries. In order that this task may be made easier for the smaller industries, and so that the latter may not become an easy prey for greedy financiers and monopolistic interests, the government has the wisdom to provide for the establishment of an organization that will be a kind of subsidiary to the Bank of Canada, and through which the smaller industries will obtain financial assistance for converting their plants to peace-time production, which will enable them to keep on their payroll the workers they needed during the war.

May I be permitted, Mr. Speaker, to voice a personal belief? Although a staunch supporter of individual freedom and private enterprise, I loathe the economic liberalism which, under the fallacious pretext of giving free rein to private enterprise, opens the door to every kind of abuse. Economic liberalism is essentially based on a *laissez faire* policy, not on private enterprise. This economic liberalism enables monopolistic interests to build up their economic empire through the elimination of their legitimate competitors by corrupt practices, blackmail and brute force. The devotees of that liberalism, which is not to be confused with political liberalism, are precisely from that school of thought which proclaims that "might is right"; they belong to that section which, twice in less than a quarter of a century, has plunged the entire world into the dreadful abyss of war with all its disastrous consequences. Economic liberalism is, in the last analysis, the worst negation of individual freedom and private enterprise. It is the very opposite of Canadian political liberalism. Did not Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in a lecture on political liberalism which he delivered in Quebec city in 1871, state that:

The rights of every man in our society, end precisely when they infringe on the rights of others.