

by the war—and I know of no nation that has not been—is grappling just as we in Canada are doing.

The first difficulty with which we have to deal in solving the complex problems confronting us is the mental condition of our men, who are to-day returning, demobilized, from the field of strife. Five hundred thousand men cannot be raised for the purposes of war by a small country like Canada, thrown into the vortex of a struggle unparalleled in history, tested with all the strain of war and engaged in human carnage and the devastation of property such as has marked the war, without great psychological problems arising and being presented not simply to the people of Canada but particularly to the Government to solve. This mental unrest marks not only Canada, but almost every country in the world: it is world-wide. It will probably prevail for some years to come. What we are viewing in Canada to-day and combatting is but the tidal wave of a revolution which is sweeping over the whole of central Europe. To-day in central Europe and Russia, the boundaries of nationality have been wiped out; the great walls of national distinction have been razed to the ground; and powers and dynasties and thrones that for centuries have exercised control or influence in all world-wide events have crumbled in the dust. Notwithstanding this fact, revolution is spreading widely over Europe; consequently it is not surprising that this tidal wave should spend itself to some extent upon the shores of America. For some years to come there will be probably more or less disturbance, dislocation, and disorganization of the institutions of society on this continent; and, while it may not be the office of a government to deal with psychological questions and problems, there is one thing which we can do, and which this Government is determined to do, and that is to maintain by a long arm and a strong hand the institutions of law and order and good government, no matter what the consequences may be.

We can, honourable gentlemen, grapple with the question of readjustment. It is a big problem, but it simply means getting Canada down to a peace basis. We are not alone in this respect, as I have said; all nations that have been directly or indirectly affected by the war are working on similar problems. We are facing unprecedented rivalry, the rivalry not only of the people of America, but also of the different nations of Europe; but there is no good reason why Canada should hesitate to enter into this rivalry, this

race between herself and the other nations of the world. The Government to-day realizes the magnitude of the problem and the responsibility cast upon our shoulders. My honourable friend from De Lorimier (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) may criticise this Government for what it is leaving undone, but has he advanced to-day any constructive policy to meet the situation which he has pointed out? This Government, allow me to say, recognizes in the first place that the great question to be dealt with at the moment is demobilization. Nothing has been left undone—I say it advisedly, and I say it without fear of challenge—nothing has been left undone by this Government that human ingenuity can devise to meet the many questions which are arising, particularly that of the demobilization of our men and their return to civil pursuits. Employment offices have been opened up from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Arrangements have been entered into between the Federal Government and the respective Provincial Governments for a line of employment bureaus, manned by provincial officers, Federal officers and returned soldiers, and extending from one end of Canada to the other. I know of no centre of population in Canada in which the Government has not organized and perfected its organization for the purpose of grappling with this question. But allow me to say that the Government cannot create employment so far as individual undertakings are concerned. We can create employment by entering upon a great programme of public works; but to-day the Government of Canada is co-operating with all industrial concerns throughout the length and breadth of this country for the purpose of solving the question of employment, and we fully realize that, in the event of our efforts being unsuccessful, the responsibility will rest upon us to enter upon a great programme of public works, and we are prepared to take that responsibility.

Furthermore, recognizing that there is a great opportunity overseas for the building up of trade with those countries particularly which have been devastated by war and must enter upon large schemes of construction, the Government have appointed trade commissions at Washington and in Europe. We have sent a trade commission to London for the purpose of negotiating with those countries to which I have alluded—France, Belgium and the Balkan countries—with a view to securing a portion of the trade which must necessarily arise between those countries and some other