

there. After putting him out on the limb, the government has proceeded to saw it off inch by inch. Many farmers have fallen to the ground, and many more will fall unless we have a little better direction in connection with farming.

Farmers who are operating dairy farms to-day do not know how they will carry on unless they get help this spring and summer. I know of one farmer over seventy-five years of age whose wife is sixty-eight years of age, and the two of them are looking after a herd of twenty-seven cows. They are working eighteen hours a day. They will be able to stand that only so long before they will have to quit. There are many thousands of farmers across Canada who are not looking for time and a half for overtime even though they are working from five o'clock in the morning until midnight; all they are thinking of is to do their bit, and they will continue to do it even though it kills them. I know it will kill many of them. If our farmers, the dairy farmers especially, do not get help, our dairy production will drop considerably during this year.

I suggest that in Ontario, and in the other provinces where there is extensive dairy farming, the government should make a survey of all farms in order to see which ones can be tractor-ploughed, disc and seeded. The government should then form a farm tractor corps of trained tractor men, even though it may be necessary to take these men out of the armed forces. This tractor corps could work day and night in eight-hour shifts to plough, disc and seed these farms. This work requires skilled labour which the farmers cannot get. The government will have to provide this help. In reply to the query, "What is parliament's main job?" by the *Financial Post*, January 30, 1943, I replied:

There are many main jobs facing parliament at the coming session, but in order to keep up the morale and health of our people the production of food I believe is one of the most important. Numerous farms will not be in production this year owing to lack of skilled farm help. I suggest that farms be put on a munition basis. I also suggest a survey be made of all farms to see which ones can be tractor-ploughed and seeded. Skilled farms corps should be formed in each district to plough, disc and seed these farms on a custom basis at below cost. These tractor corps should operate twenty-four hours per day. Women's land army of uniformed corps should be formed and capable farmers working on poor land should be moved to good land to produce.

I was pleased to hear the hon. member for North Battleford (Mrs. Nielsen) and the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Reid) refer to a women's land army. In Great Britain they have 53,000 women in their land

army, and I notice from the paper, I think it was yesterday, that they expect that number to be doubled this year. The harvesting on these farms could be done by women and also by school boys and girls, because harvesting does not require the skilled labour that seeding and ploughing require.

I should like to make a suggestion on the subject of education, a subject which was not mentioned in the speech from the throne. Voluntary committees should be set up throughout Canada to pick out bright and healthy—that should be one of the main qualifications—boys and girls with a view to seeing that they are put through university to become doctors or dentists, scientists, engineers, agriculturists. To-day in Canada we have many boys and girls who would be only too willing to go on to university but whose fathers and mothers cannot afford to send them. I know of one particular case, the child of a veteran of the last war, a girl who won a scholarship, the brightest girl in the whole of Ontario, who was unable to go on to university on account of the lack of funds. It is boys and girls like that who should be helped.

There is another subject upon which I shall touch. I had not intended to mention it, but the Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. Mackenzie) is in his place and that is why I refer to it now. It is with regard to the men and women who have been discharged from the armed forces and returned home, some of them after two or three years in the service. I know of one case—the minister knows it too—where a boy had been in the service for a year and a half and was then returned home. He was anxious to do some work even if he had to do it sitting down. He wanted some work to do with his hands. The pension board gave him a pension of forty dollars a month. The boy, of course, is tickled pink to have the forty dollars, because he has been sponging on his sister who has had to go out and work to support him. But the boy is anxious to do something for himself and earn his own money, and there are many others who are in the same position, anxious to do something for themselves. We should not wait until after the war to prepare jobs for these men and women. We should have jobs for them now, and if there are no jobs for them we should create jobs. Surely there is something they can do even if it is done in their own homes.

I have touched on many subjects, Mr. Speaker, but in war time there are many subjects of interest to us all, and I can only thank the house for its indulgence.