

what we think about them. We cannot talk to the boards; we cannot talk to the minister when the boards are set up. This is the place where these matters must be discussed. I do not believe that there was ever a government which held office in this country during a trying time which had greater cooperation from an opposition than the present government has received. True, we have been critical, but I hope that the criticism we have levelled against the government has been constructive. If we look back over the plebiscite campaign, who were prouder to carry that vote than members of the official opposition?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: You took a long time about it.

Mr. HOMUTH: Very well, but when the vote was to be taken we went out and worked for it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I knew you would.

Mr. HOMUTH: Let me tell the Prime Minister that there were not a great many members of his party who did the same thing.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): You are right.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Oh, yes, there were.

Mr. HOMUTH: And when the victory loan campaigns were launched, members of this party worked hard to make them a success. Certainly it was our duty to do so, but what did the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Wood) and members for other ridings around my own do in this direction? How much time did they spend in organizing the victory loan campaigns? I followed the course of these loan drives very carefully—

Mr. WOOD: I would not trade Brant for your riding.

Mr. HOMUTH: The hon. member would have to give me the rest of the province to boot.

We have endeavoured in every possible way to assist the government, but there are some of these matters which I think we have to deal with on the floor of the house, and some of the things I am going to mention to-day have come to me as a result of my activity in industry, representing a farming district. As a result of our building up of control boards, they have seriously affected our output on farms and in the factories. Man-power and these control boards are directly interlocked. Some of these boards are exceptionally good and are doing a fine job. Some of them are headed by men who plan carefully and move warily, and when

they put out an order one can depend upon it that it has been so well planned that the order will work smoothly and people will fall in line. But there are other boards that do not plan, boards that do not take the precautions they ought to take, and they make rulings that disorganize industry, so that within a very short time they have to change those rulings. The whole trouble is on account of the fact that the man who was at the head of that particular board was not practical or was not a good organizer. If he had been a good organizer, even if he was not practical in that particular line, he would at least have called in practical men and have discussed these matters with them.

Take, for example, the cost of living bonus, the original order in council dealing with that question. Every industry was told that it had to pay a cost of living bonus. Most of them complied. Some, however, did not, and before any action was taken to enforce it with these particular industries, a new order came out freezing the wages. These industries then could not pay that cost of living bonus, with the result that in many municipalities and industrial centres there was a checker-board system of wages, a system which was due entirely to the effect of the orders in council which were passed by the board, one contradicting another.

Then we have industries which are 100 per cent on war work. These industries are classed as non-essential, notwithstanding that everything they turn out is war material. They are classed as non-essential for one purpose, and everyone knows it, namely, that those called for service out of those industries do not get the same consideration as those who come from what are classed as essential industries. The idea is to get these men out of these industries and fill their places with old men or women if possible.

Orders were made freezing wages. The employees accepted that; the employer accepted it, and they went along their way satisfied as far as possible to cooperate with the government and the government's order. Then suddenly the government come along and start an industry of their own in the vicinity, or perhaps right within the municipality. As soon as they are ready to start they need help. There is no ceiling on the wages they offer. They break the wage ceiling immediately for the district. They will get men and women into that industry regardless—and they do. In these other essential war industries, however, wages are frozen. But this industry starts up, headed by someone appointed by the government, and breaks the wage ceiling, causing discontent in every other enterprise in the dis-