

that are very difficult of accomplishment. Unfortunately human nature has its weak and its bad sides as well as its strong and good sides. Sometimes it is very difficult to cope effectively with the underworld and its methods. But let me say this: I care not who the individual may be, how respectable in his own eyes or in the eyes of others he may appear, or what position he may hold; if in this crisis he seeks to profiteer he belongs to the underworld and should be treated as one of those who menace all that is sacred in human relations.

My hon. friend spoke also of mobilizing industry. I agree with him that perhaps as great a service as can be rendered will be the kind of service that highly mobilized industry can render. Already important steps have been taken to mobilize industry and later, when there is an opportunity to discuss the matter in detail, I think hon. members will appreciate what the government has already done in that direction.

Then there is the matter of patronage, of favouritism. May I say this to my own following in this House of Commons: If any of you desire to have persons given positions, in connection with this war, simply because they are favourites of yours; if primarily for such a reason you want to have any one given some special post, keep away from me, for I will never listen to you. I say the same to every hon. member of this house, and I say it not only on my own behalf, but on behalf of the government. We want no favouritism in this war. We want the name of this government and this country to be honourably sustained, and the man who seeks to profit indirectly by having his relatives or friends gain this contract or get that commission simply because they are among his favourites is no true friend of this administration.

My hon. friend, the leader of the opposition, has spoken about bringing little children here from the old country. He has made a plea which naturally would touch the heart of the nation. As he is aware, for some time one of our leading journals made that proposal a special cause. I said very little about it personally, but before I had said anything other than that there was need for the government to consider carefully what might be best in the way of cooperative effort should war come. I observed that Sir Thomas Inskip, then Secretary of State for the Dominions and now Lord Chancellor, said that the suggestion was an impossible one, that there would be conditions arising which would make it impossible in case of war for Britain to think of sending children overseas. I am not giving my words; I am giving those of a minister of the crown in Britain. We were attacked

for not coming out immediately and accepting the suggestion, as we probably will be attacked time and time again because we do not accept many other suggestions. I would ask hon. members to believe that whatever action we take or do not take with respect to matters overseas will be in the light of information received as the result of consultation with Great Britain and the other countries that may be associated in this war, and in the light of the knowledge and experience we ourselves possess.

My hon. friend said that local problems should not be forgotten. With that I also agree. I intended a little later on to say something in this connection which I have all along believed and believe now more strongly than ever. Our local problems in Canada, the most serious of them—the great question of unemployment—have not been due primarily to conditions in this country. They have been due to the extent to which the minds of men and women throughout this world have been filled with fear and terror—not for one year only, but for the past three or four years—a terror that has caused many men to hide away what little capital they have, instead of investing it; a terror that has caused one nation after another to spend its millions in increasing armaments instead of engaging in useful production.

We could have put unemployed labour in this country into the manufacture of munitions, into the manufacture of implements of war as has been done so largely in Europe, and even in Great Britain. Would this parliament have endorsed that step before to-day? Only to a very limited extent. I question very much if parliament would have voted the moneys necessary for such a purpose; indeed already I have seen a published statement to the effect that we should not take advantage of men who are unemployed by bringing them as the first into this great struggle. Far be it from this government to attempt anything of that kind. These men have suffered, and we are not going to increase their suffering, if we can possibly avoid it. We are going to do what we can for them. What we can do depends a good deal upon the demands that this house and the country make upon the government with respect to its effective action in the war.

I believe I have touched upon most of the points raised by my hon. friend. Again I hasten to repeat my thanks not only to him but also to the leaders of the other parties for such expressions of understanding and support as they have been kind enough to give to the government. May I say to them that I realize how difficult their task is