

and consistently has been, so far as I know, the policy of this party that Canada's man-power should be made available wherever it could be used to the best advantage in the cause for which we are fighting. Unlike a minority group in this country who still think of this war in terms of the war of 1914-18, who still think in terms of large armies, masses of infantry, as being the essential feature of our war effort, we felt that, on account of Canada's unique geographical position, on account of the extent of our natural resources, we were in a peculiar position to contribute to the war effort in fields other than that of the army. In view of the vastly greater armies that our allies can put into the field, we never felt that the size of Canada's army would be the vital, determining factor in the course of the war. We felt that Canada could make what would probably be a decisive contribution by supplying food to the armed forces, by utilizing to the full our industrial plants, and so on. We felt then, and I think time has shown that we were right, that on account of Canada's remoteness from the battlefield we were in a unique position to train young men for the air force, to provide our allies with ships and with men for the navy.

I am not suggesting for one moment that Canada should not have an army overseas.

Mr. GRAYDON: Your party said that before; that was your party's policy.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: I am speaking now for myself. Since I became a member, the party has never at any time opposed the presence of a Canadian army overseas.

Mr. GRAYDON: The hon. member must be just a newcomer.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: No one who knows the temper of the Canadian people; no one who has any knowledge of the Canadian people would for one moment believe that it would be possible for Great Britain and the empire to be engaged in a war and to keep Canadians out of the army.

Mr. GRAYDON: The hon. member's leader said that.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: Our leader can defend himself on that point and give his own explanation. I am confident that no government in this country, whether it be Conservative, Liberal, Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, or any other, could possibly withstand the storm of public protest that would arise, should it be decided not to give Canadians an opportunity of serving in the army. Our point is that Canada's contribution will not of necessity be determined by the size

of our armed forces. The hon. member for York-Sunbury expressed concern as to whether or not we had sufficient recruits to reinforce the five divisions of the Canadian army that may be called to go overseas. I have grave doubts myself as to whether we have sufficient reinforcements for that army. But my contention is that it is not a question of whether we send one or two divisions more or less, that is likely to be the determining factor in winning the war; that will not be nearly as important as our contribution through our factories and especially our agricultural production.

I do not profess to have the knowledge possessed by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner); I do not profess to know the situation regarding agriculture across this country as well as he does, but I have travelled considerably in Ontario during the past six or eight months; I have talked to many farmers in this province, and I am satisfied that the policy now being followed by the government will not enable this province to maintain the production of farm products on the scale we have been producing in the past. I do not think anyone in this house doubts for one moment the importance of Canada's contribution to the food supplies of the allied nations during the war. It is important that we should maintain this food production during this war.

On June 3, I gave to this house numerous reports which had been made by the Ontario department of agriculture and by the dominion bureau of statistics, showing that present prospects are that there will be a decrease in Ontario's production of beef cattle, hogs, dairy products, sugar beets and other essential war foods. If we are to maintain this production which is one of Canada's principal contributions to the war effort, which in my opinion will be a vital and determining factor in victory and in the post-war world, steps will have to be taken to see that no more experienced farmers are called from the farms of this country either into the army or into industry. Farms in this province have already been denuded of this help.

If our farmers are to be able to carry out the programme set for them by the Minister of Agriculture, I maintain that it becomes most essential that experienced men who are still on the farm be left there. I notice that an official of the selective service branch in Ottawa when speaking in Hamilton on May 24 made the statement that 60,000 additional farm workers would be needed to obtain the entire quantities of farm products required for the coming year without making any allowance for farmers who are likely to be