

of that anomaly? It lies in the fact that prior to the depression of 1914 the producing power of the Canadian people was lying idle, and it has been half idle ever since. Even to-day it is partly idle.

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) has estimated the national income of the Dominion of Canada at five and a half billions of dollars, but that estimate is made during a period when Canada is partly idle, notwithstanding the expenditures that have been and are being made and the demand for our production. We are spending on war services, roughly three million dollars a day, the equivalent of \$3 per day in wages of a million men; and yet the Minister of Labour (Mr. McLarty) in a recent statement declared that even to-day in Canada quite a number of thousands of employable people are still unemployed. The figure he gave—I am not sure of the exact amount, but it was a fairly big figure—did not include the men who have no work to do but have not registered at any relief office or done anything to call themselves to the attention of the authorities—those who are just getting by. Nor did it include, of course, those who are only half employed—and their number is legion. Nor did it include those who are unproductively employed. Nobody could count these classes I have named. It is quite impossible to get statistics with regard to them, but my thought is that if they could be counted they would number in the thousands. If under these conditions the national income at the present moment is to be estimated at five and a half billions of dollars, I suggest that if more favourable industrial economic conditions could be brought about and our population put to work, there would be no difficulty at all in adding another couple of billions of dollars to our total production.

Mr. ILSLEY: If the hon. gentleman will permit me, just to keep the record straight, the estimated national income for the next fiscal year is \$5,300,000,000, not \$5,500,000,000, and that contemplates the employment of, I think, two or three hundred thousand more persons who are not employed to-day.

Mr. ROEBUCK: I thank the minister for that further information, but I do not think it destroys the logic of my remarks. The minister's estimate is based on next year's production and includes the employment of quite a large additional number of men. But I am satisfied that even when these things have been accomplished, when this estimate has been justified in fact, the producing power of the Canadian people will not even then be anything like exhausted.

I have heard it stated, and I think it is probably true, that one factory, a large one

in the city of Toronto, could make all the tires that are required for all the cars in the whole Dominion of Canada, and the others fight for their position in the sun rather than their producing position. And so with many other lines of production. If we called for production and let the producers free so that they could produce to their maximum, the producing power of the Dominion of Canada would be almost unlimited. Of course it is not unlimited, but it is very, very great. I deprecate, sir, the continuous talk about tightening our belts. I do not like that phrase. In my judgment it is a mistaken phrase, because what little we could gain by penury in the household, by saving and stinting, would be much less than would be gained by a little more endeavour in the matter of production. Instead of choosing the watchword of save and stint and spare, we should adopt the watchword of produce and then produce again and more production. Let it be noted that in order to get a maximum of production in our society, or any society like ours, your men and women must be well fed, well clothed and well housed. Your maximum results must not be achieved by economies where economies are not in order now. You can do far more by the very reverse.

According to figures which were produced in the house yesterday afternoon, already there has been a considerable improvement in Canada's producing power. The preliminary figures for 1940 indicate that Canada's national income was \$554,600,000 higher than that of 1939. That is to say, although many people thought that we were working to our limit in 1939, the actual fact is that the production of 1940 was over half a billion dollars greater than the production of 1939. The national income per capita in 1940 is set tentatively at \$402, as compared with \$357 for the previous year. The production of the Canadian people has increased approximately \$50 per capita in this past year—indicating, I suggest to the house, that a further increase of our producing power is by no means out of the question.

One would naturally ask, how can such better conditions be brought about? I do not know that I am prepared to act the Solon in that regard, but I think I can see some things we should not do. I can say how not to do it, if I cannot say very explicitly just how to do it. One of the things which I think this country as well as its rulers should ponder is that if you are to get a maximum of production from your people you must avoid to the very extent of your ability restrictive legislation. In order to obtain maximum producing power your producers must be free. Let me illustrate—perhaps not very well—