

own living. A separate department should be able to look after that problem much better than if it were spread over several departments. The Veterans' Land Act should be administered in such way that the difficulties that followed the administration of the Soldier Settlement Act will be avoided. The provision to assist veterans in establishing themselves in business, in regard to building their homes or improving their homes, is something that I think will be greeted with a great deal of satisfaction.

The reconverting of our factories from war-time to peace-time uses after the war will be a stupendous task. It is important from two points of view that it be done quickly, in order to reabsorb into industry as many people as possible, and so that their productive capacity may be made available as early as possible in order to step up the standard of living of our people. The Department of Reconstruction which will devote its entire energies to this work should be able to make a real contribution toward the well-being of Canada.

I am sure hon. members will realize how much I personally commend and appreciate the proposal to establish an industrial development bank, as a subsidiary of the Bank of Canada, to assist in providing funds for the reconversion of war plants, both in regard to capital expenditure and working capital. This is veritably a step in the right direction.

Above everything else, however, the principle in the speech from the throne which I believe the people of Canada, both service personnel and civilians, will rejoice to see accepted is the recognition by our government of an obligation to guarantee to our citizens a national minimum of social security and human welfare. In his book, "Industry and Humanity", written twenty-five years ago, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) set out certain ideals which we should seek to attain in regard to better social security. It is not often that a young man who dreams of a programme for the betterment of his country is given a chance twenty-five years later, as prime minister of his country, to begin to carry out in such large measure as is proposed in the speech from the throne that programme. Already we have had some indication of the devotion of the right hon. gentleman to humanitarian principles in connection with the enactment under his government of old age pensions, pensions for the blind, unemployment insurance and the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, which is in the same category. I do not need to dwell upon the extent to which the first three measures I mentioned are appreciated by those whose

[Mr. Tucker.]

lives they have made much easier and happier. In regard to the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, not a farmer in the west with whom I have come in contact has failed to express his appreciation for what has been done in giving him some measure of security against crop failure through drought which, it has been shown through experience, must be expected from time to time throughout that area. I should like to say just how much we in the prairie provinces appreciate that measure of security, and we do thank the government for having given it to our part of the country.

In the programme outlined in the speech from the throne there are certain definite proposals to provide social security which I welcome. A guaranteed minimum price for staple farm products is something for which representatives of all parties have struggled, both in this house and out of it; and speaking on behalf of a farming constituency I should like to say how much that step will be appreciated by the farmers of this country. There is a feeling that the farmer is just as much entitled to minimum prices for his products as the labouring man is entitled to minimum wages, and I rejoice that this measure of security is being given to our farmers. They will feel that they need not fear after this war a collapse in prices such as we saw following the last war; and just here I should like to add a word of commendation in regard to the policy of the government which made it possible to attain something approaching parity in the prices of farm products. This house knows that I for one have felt that the anti-inflation programme should not be permitted to freeze the primary producer in a position of permanent economic inferiority, and I wish to thank the government most earnestly and sincerely for having found a way to maintain the anti-inflation programme and at the same time to see to it that the farmer obtained some measure of justice through an increase in the prices of the things he has to sell.

The provision for family allowances is something about which we should all be very happy. This principle has been recognized in our law ever since we provided for income tax exemptions on account of the children of those in the higher income brackets; but it only helped those with incomes sufficiently high to require them to pay income tax, and did not help those who needed such assistance even more, the people who did not have incomes sufficient to be subject to income tax. If it is good enough for the richer man, Mr. Speaker; if it is good enough for the more highly paid labouring man, who get enough to pay an income tax and receive the exemption,