

we have done more in the last year for those serving their country than we did in the previous twenty-five years. Hon. gentlemen should be proud of that, instead of finding fault. Any case that comes to my attention that can be met will be met, as the hon. member for Lake Centre was kind enough to say, and I greatly appreciated his remarks. The hon. member for Weyburn mentioned a case yesterday, which only reached me after he had spoken. That case will be met. Any case that it is within my power to meet will be met and will receive the most sympathetic treatment possible. But I think at this serious time of war hon. members should be constructive in directing attention to these problems, instead of creating among those who may be considering enlisting the impression that Canada is not being generous or sympathetic or fair to the men who are going to fight the battles of freedom in the years to come.

The hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar mentioned a committee on reconstruction, and the leader of the opposition applauded his suggestion. Do you recall, Mr. Chairman, that in 1940 the Prime Minister placed upon the order paper a resolution providing for the very committee for which my hon. friend is asking. Does the hon. gentleman remember what happened? We came upon very dark days in the war; we had the tragic episode of Dunkirk, and after consultation it was decided by this house, and I think properly at that time, that we should devote all our energies to the immediate problems connected with that great disaster and with the mobilization of Canadian men for war purposes. Therefore that resolution was withdrawn from the order paper. I ask my hon. friend the leader of the opposition, as I ask the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar: Is the situation to-day brighter than it was at the time of Dunkirk, when hon. members unanimously concurred in the withdrawal of that resolution in regard to post-war problems? I tell my hon. friends that the great thing to-day is to secure victory; otherwise we shall not have a word to say in deciding post-war problems in the Dominion of Canada. That is where our energies must be directed. If, however, the judgment of this committee is to the effect that we should have a committee such as that, I shall be very glad indeed to bring it to the attention of my right hon. leader, and to recommend it to him.

We have a committee now—a committee of six eminent Canadians. I am sorry if they are not in good odour with my hon. friends.

Mr. COLDWELL: No; that is not right; I want to correct that.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I accept the correction, gladly.

Mr. COLDWELL: But the committee is not extensive enough, not representative enough.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Well, let us see. The committee represents labour, in the person of the finest champion of organized labour in Canada. I refer to Mr. Tom Moore. The representative of industry is Mr. J. S. McLean. Education is represented by the principals of McGill and Queen's and the secretary-general of Montreal university. It is representative of agriculture, through a gentleman bearing a fine old Scotch name, namely Mr. Donald G. M. Mackenzie of Winnipeg. That committee has formed numerous subcommittees dealing with questions of agriculture, production and finance, and in due course their representations will be received by the government.

May I say to my hon. friend that we have gone much farther with reference to the problem of reconstruction than they have gone in England. We are in touch with organizations such as he may have visualized, including the economic section of the League of Nations and others. We have carried on the work in regard to the specific problem of the rehabilitation of soldiers.

It is my considered judgment—and I believe the committee knows where my heart lies—that once the measures to be introduced in the house have passed we shall have all the legislation necessary to look after the problem of the reestablishment of ex-service men. The administration may fall down, but the power is there; the legislation is there. There will always be things which must be corrected, but the general purpose and general purport of our legislation is not to-day approached in any part of the British empire. I defy any hon. member who knows what has happened in the other dominions to prove I am wrong in that.

So let us all work together. In years gone by we have given much attention to this problem of ex-service men. It has not been and it should not be a party question. The present bill should not be a party question. Special committees of the house have always studied measures I have introduced. It will be so with the land settlement bill.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I must say that I deprecate the engendering of any feeling of pessimism and defeatism in regard to the will and the purpose of this dominion, and any questioning of my honourable intentions with respect to these matters. There is no doubt as to what Canada should do for those who are now serving her. The whole resources of the nation should be mobilized to see to it that