

placed elsewhere, where they could be giving all they had to an all-out effort. This was quite demoralizing to employees who, as faithful, loyal, anxious and courageous citizens, wish to do all they can in industry to further our war effort. A key man in a certain factory, making a certain type of aeroplane, found his factory converted to the manufacture of another type. He had special techniques, capabilities and experience to do that particular job. Why could he not have been moved to a firm who could use him, where his technical skill could be used to advantage in an all-out war effort, instead of slowing down, waiting until a new type of production was embarked upon by the firm for which he worked?

That condition was prevalent all across the dominion, not only in the aircraft industry, but certainly in the shipbuilding industry as well, and in other industrial enterprises. What could be more serious to the war effort than such a situation, when we want to produce all we can? In the failure of the government to mention this matter in the speech from the throne they have failed to mention the most important problem, probably the most difficult that is facing our country at the present time.

The allocation of man-power applies not only to industry but also to agriculture, which comprises one-third of our population drawing only one-sixth of the national income. Let me quote the words of a great man in the United States, a former president, who in a speech in New York on January 21, made this statement:

Agriculture simply must be envisaged as a munitions industry. The farmer must receive men and tools if he is to perform his part. . . . The shortage of labour, of machinery and methods of price control are limiting the vitally essential expansion of this production, and the flocks and herds upon which production depends. And unless we can quickly realize and quickly reverse these limiting forces there are dangers to the conduct of the war.

That is a quotation from a former president of the United States, a country which has been just a little over one year in the war, whereas we are in our fourth year.

Another matter to which I direct the attention of the government is that of existing labour relations in Canada. I do not wish to dwell in detail upon it; but with regard to the steel strike, I am of opinion that the rate of wages paid to labour, in comparison with tripling and quadrupling the rate paid in salaries to some officials in the management of the companies, constitutes a just complaint which is not only demoralizing to the war effort, but depressing in its effect upon pro-

duction. This is a factor causing greatly increased costs of production. I do not think I would be far astray in this statement, that if the materials were available we have the plants; and with the men, if labour relations were as they should be, we could increase our production of aeroplanes at least three times what it is at present with the factories we now have set up in Canada.

Another thing to which I object, as affecting both industry and agriculture, is the repeated call for men to serve in the armed forces and the uncertainty of the men as to when they will be called from munitions production or from agriculture into the armed forces. The men in industry and agriculture are some of the best we have in Canada, some of the most loyal and patriotic men, the furthest from slackers, men who would be the last to want to feel that they were not doing their utmost in the war effort.

Perhaps agriculture would give the best illustration. Let us consider the case of the young man on the farm. He has been raised on the farm; he has spent his whole life on the farm. He has received his education from the farm and has studied the various principles of farm operation, such as the rotation of crops, maintaining fertility on the land, the proper feeding of his stocks and flocks, the proper cultivating of his land, the planning of seasonal crops a year ahead. He has studied the multifarious sciences, such as the complicated science of marketing. He may have had an education in primary and secondary schools, and may have even attended university. But he is now on the soil, and he feels that he may be called from that soil some day—but he does not know when. It may be a call in three months or in six months, and he may be granted a postponement—but there is no certainty whatsoever of his getting off. In fact, in my own experience very often they do not hear from their applications for postponement until the very day they have to report for military service, or after.

What chance has this young man to use his scientific knowledge? He has applied himself with sincerity and devotion to his mode of life, to the mode of production on the farm, to the complicated problem of progressive agriculture, and the uncertainty connected therewith. What opportunity has his employer, be it his father or otherwise, a year in advance to plan crops, to decide how many milch cows he will keep, how many hens he will have, how many sheep or hogs he will keep, what grain he will grow? What folly it would be for a farmer in these days,