

both grave and urgent, and if we have to approach them without prior consideration and deliberation we shall probably make mistakes as we did after the last war, for it will be very difficult for any Government under pressure to arrive quickly at a decision as to what should be done.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: Our Banking and Commerce Committee is the best judicial committee in Parliament, and is so recognized by those who have come here to present their views before it. In this committee we have an instrument which could be used for the purpose of making inquiries into post-war problems. It is true, its findings and recommendations might not be applicable two or three years from now, but in the meantime our consultations and the consolidation of opinion would have a strong educational value throughout the country.

Now, with regard to post-war problems, there is at the present time no common forum where the views of various local committees throughout the Dominion can be presented and sifted and a proper value placed on them. I think the people from Halifax to Vancouver who are giving so much thought to those problems would very much appreciate the usefulness of some body, such as our Banking and Commerce Committee, before which their views could be presented, considered fully and dealt with. The educational effect of such a forum would be far-reaching; and, after all, it would be in the national interest to educate public opinion along certain sound lines which would be acceptable to the people generally. I am talking somewhat at random on this, but I think the leader of the House has started something that should be followed up. I am sure we could find useful employment for ourselves almost continuously if we were to take up systematically a matter of that kind, or similar matters awaiting attention. Such action would be non-political. It would be helpful to the Government of the day, and particularly helpful to the Government which is in power after the war.

Hon. JAMES MURDOCK: Honourable senators, the honourable gentleman who has just spoken is at least logical and consistent. This is not the first time that we have heard him in this House contending that we should be doing more than we are doing. Someone said a little while ago that the people of the country are not fully informed. In my humble judgment, during the whole of the twelve years that I have been here they have never been fully informed. They do not

Hon. Mr. McRAE.

know in the slightest degree how little we do—and, in my humble judgment, how little many of us want to do. It is only a few years since the distinguished gentleman who has just taken his seat made in this House almost exactly the same speech that he has made to-day, and as a result this House unanimously appointed a brand new committee on External Relations. That committee, I think I am safe in saying, has never met since, and has never made a report.

About that same time the distinguished gentleman said:

I cannot conceive of any development which would justify this country in sacrificing the blood of one single Canadian on the battle-fields of Europe.

Yet to-day Canadian blood is being sacrificed.

I am quite sure that the leader of the House was altogether sincere in his suggestion which started this discussion. I am sure also that he, whom we all wish well, will not lose sight of the fact that although the Senate convened on January 22, the first time he showed up in this Chamber was on the tenth day of March. Furthermore, I think honourable senators will agree with me that during the entire month of February the Senate sat for only sixteen minutes, and yet each of us drew \$530 for the work he had done. Of course the public do not understand! They have no conception of how little we have to do under existing conditions, or how little we may have to do.

When it comes to post-war conditions, I agree that there is much talk about the subject, but in the meantime many distinguished gentlemen who are permeated with the ideas—or shall I say the venom?—of bygone days, are convinced that the labourer is not worthy of his hire. We should get down to brass tacks and prepare for post-war conditions. Much can be done by individual men. I shall be on the job. I live here. In that respect I am probably more fortunate than many other senators. But if we did meet oftener, even if we had a great deal to do, it would be a case of trying to get through and get away in order to satisfy some of our distinguished friends. I think I could give the names of a number of distinguished gentlemen who have been paid \$100 an hour for every hour they have sat in this Chamber during the last five or ten years. Perhaps by reason of having a different kind of education and a different viewpoint from others, I am heartily sick and tired of hearing it said that we have nothing to do, for I know in my own heart and mind that it is the view of many that we have just about the right amount to do, and that is practically nothing.