

the agreement of those who support us, and used with judgment and energy, may make of this country one of the greatest in the whole family of nations.

I want to compliment the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. MacNicol) upon the most excellent speech which he made yesterday afternoon, with the spirit of which I most heartily agree. He is my next-door neighbour; is a good neighbour, and I like to see him address himself to problems of this kind. I think that he and I have the same outlook, if not the same philosophy. He expressed the hope that at the close of this war we shall not face the kind of conditions through which we passed at the close of the last war. Of course I echo that hope, but hope alone is not enough; what is needed is thought, serious thought, and thought followed by resolute action.

"Where there is no vision the people perish." We should be thinking of this problem now. To leave it until the war is ended and the disaster is upon us is not good enough; it will be too late. We should be thinking about this matter now and should be planning developments. We should see to it, to the extent of our ability, that we go on with the St. Lawrence waterway, thus adding some two or three thousand miles of coast line to our already extensive seaboard, and giving to the province of Ontario another million horse-power of electric energy. Let us combine this vast supply of electric energy with these unexampled facilities for trade, and then organize industry to make use of these wonderful facilities.

I wonder if this house catches the vision of these great lakes and the areas which surround them, the vision of a great industrial population, great cities, teeming populations of active and happy men engaged in production, if we but see to it that these resources are made available, that they are used and not simply held, and that the captains of industry intelligently apply their thought to the problem of bringing about the enterprises which are necessary to use the natural resources and employ our people.

I suggest to the Minister of Labour that he should be planning now—not little bills like this, although I heartily approve of this bill; he should be planning, if we are to avoid disaster, the broader development which should come to this country at the close of this war. We must plan the use of the lands, the forests and the mines to this general end; the conversion of the factories which are now making munitions of war to the production of food and clothing and the distribution of the goods, and the general principles which apply in both cases.

[Mr. Roebuck.]

Let us plan for the peace—for peace must come some time. During the course of the war between the north and the south, which to them was the disaster of history, Abraham Lincoln assured his people that "even this will pass"; and so will the disaster of the present war. Even this will pass; perhaps earlier than we can at this moment realize, that time will be upon us, and we should to-day be planning for the days of peace with the meticulous care for detail and with the energy and foresight with which Hitler planned for war. We can do it, but if we are to win the victories of peace we must not approach the problem in the lackadaisical way in which we approached the problems of war.

I say to the Minister of Labour that he should at the present time be calling to his help and surrounding himself with men of knowledge, men of experience and judgment. There should be councils of workers and managers and owners and financiers, and these men should now be working out this problem. Work it out we can if we but give our unselfish devotion to it. Everyone who can contribute should be called around this council table to work out the details as well as the general principles.

This little bill is all right as a gesture; it may confer some benefit here and there, although it does seem to me that anything which the bill compels would be given voluntarily by any decent employer. There may be some employers who are not decent, and so far as they are concerned the compulsion applied by the bill will be of advantage. It is a step in the right direction, a step which I welcome, but only a step. If the Minister of Labour would attack the broader problem, he can solve the problem of employment. If he can organize in advance the industries which can employ these men, so as to avoid the disasters which followed the last war; if he can do this, the name of the present Minister of Labour will find a place in the history books of this country.

Mr. T. C. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I should like to extend my congratulations to the hon. member who has just taken his seat (Mr. Roebuck) upon the very excellent speech he has made, and his far-seeing and prophetic outlook upon the post-war world. I only hope that the point of view he has expressed will be infectious and that some of his colleagues will catch it, particularly some of those who sit on the treasury benches.

The problem of reestablishing and rehabilitating the men who come back from the fighting services is probably the most important question, next to the winning of the