

Russia for having thrown their tremendous weight on our side. However, let us remember also that Canada was among the first countries to join England and France in the defence of the valiant Polish people and to oppose brutal totalitarianism. In truth, Canada was one of the first countries of the globe to visualize the far-reaching significance of the present conflict. Acting in accordance, our people went all out into the struggle, because Canada's survival was in jeopardy, and they foresaw that an Axis victory would inevitably result in the darkest future and the lowering of all moral and social standards.

Canada devoted herself unreservedly to the cause she cherishes above all else. Thanks to wise guidance, she has given a splendid effort, which even the most wonderful accomplishments of our Allies fail to dim. Her conduct in this matter has not impaired national unity, although questions relating to peace and war had already given rise to a certain amount of dissension in the country. After four and a half years of war, harmony reigns in Canada because the Government pursued a sound policy and took into consideration the various ethnical elements of our population.

The preservation of national unity was a tremendous task. It was also necessary to safeguard the future and to keep a balanced economy. It can be said that, in spite of the changes wrought in our economy, its foundations remain sound and intact. Our finances are in good shape. The numerous bodies set up to insure the full measure of our war effort will still be useful after the war. We have every reason to believe that the various controls appointed to maintain the financial, economic and social stability of our nation have fulfilled their purpose. Is it not true, for instance, that inflation was the worst evil threatening the home front? Is it not equally true that, thus far, the Government has succeeded in warding off even the slightest symptoms of such a calamity? We ourselves have paid the expense involved by our share in the struggle; and when this drama of bloodshed comes to an end, we shall be debtors to no one else. Moreover, a number of boards, set up for the purpose of regulating production, exchange and consumption, will remain in existence, enriched by the precious knowledge they have acquired and fully experienced in the complex branches of industrial and commercial relations. After the war, when it is necessary for us to adjust our national and international trade according to our means, our aspirations and a decent standard of living, these bodies will supply us with guiding-posts and methods which will

ease to an appreciable extent the transition from war to peace. Thus will many shocks and errors be avoided.

Agriculture, which is of such importance to Canada, especially in the West, will be in a much better position than after the war of 1914-1918. In those days, our farmers had tried to boost their incomes by adding more land to their estates. During the present war, however, they have attempted to free themselves from debt and to pay off the mortgages with which they were burdened; in other words, they have tried to consolidate their position. This effort was not made without sacrifice, but it came willingly from the heart. Honourable senators, the directors of a number of mortgage companies have given me confirmation of the statements I have just made.

Without doubt, the Canadian farmer in selling his products did not net the enormous profits prevalent during the first world war, but this time he made better use of his income. When restrictions on the production of agricultural machinery are lifted, our farmers will be in a position to renew their equipment with the most modern implements. If it is then necessary to feed part of Europe and Asia, they will be able to do their share nobly. The measures mentioned in the Speech from the Throne which are intended to benefit agriculture and to insure its stability may be new, but they are inspired by principles which Liberals have always recognized.

I should like to say how pleased I am with the social legislation which has been forecast. Whatever happens, it is a world transformed that will come out of this great trial. Individuals will be broadened; restrictions and privations will have instilled in all of us a deeper sense of solidarity. The people thirst after a distributive justice more in keeping with their conception of simple justice. The Government deserves praise for having understood that the new tendencies of public opinion coincide with needs which have always been felt, but which, until now, have always been met only a little at a time.

It is truly comforting to hear that our soldiers, when they return, will be able to count on obtaining stable and remunerative employment; that the women of the auxiliary services will not be neglected; that we shall smooth out the kinks in the transition from war industries to peacetime enterprises for our working men and women. The married women who helped their family with a second salary and who will return home after the war, will find that family allowances diminish to an appreciable extent the feeling of privation caused by the loss of