

*Forces—Reinstatement in Employment*

have to keep a large army long after we have need for it. Neither must demobilization be precipitate. That is one of the great faults we have to avoid, and no amount of cry from the taxpayers should be allowed to interfere with any programme in that regard. The cry of taxpayers should not be an inducement to any government at that time to shut down industry and to demobilize the army too rapidly, or anything of the sort. It must be done gradually.

What will be the position after this war? It will be different from the position after the last war. We shall have an army of technical people highly trained—because there will be both men and women. These people must be looked after, and therefore technical jobs must be provided for them. The bill will not be any good unless some of these things are thought of. The employees of the country are all highly trained technically, and that is the kind of employment that must be provided. There is no use talking about vast programmes of public works, and so on. We must have something more than that. We must readjust the industries that we shall have at that time to the needs of the future in order to keep up production. Everything that can possibly be done must be done for these people who come out of the army, and we must do the same for those who are in civilian life and who are technically trained. There is no reason why it cannot be done. The one thing to do is to keep always in mind the factor of importance, on which the prosperity of any country really depends, and that is the rapidity of exchange of goods and services among the individuals of the country. We must keep that rapidity in the exchange of goods and services on an even keel, not allowing it to go either away up or away down. There are a good many things that can be done.

After the war is over we shall need to replenish the supply we have of consumption goods, but we must not allow the increase in the supply of consumption goods to accumulate too fast. We shall have exploitation if we do. It must grow gradually. We shall still have a great many war controls such as we have to-day in connection with prices and trade and wages and so on. We must keep these controls on and loosen them only gradually; otherwise we shall have chaos. Unless the government of the day take into consideration all these factors, and remember that we must have a gradual transition from war-time to peace-time industries; unless they plan far enough ahead, we shall have the same conditions as we had after the last war.

There are other things that must be taken into consideration. When the war is over

[Mr. Douglas G. Ross.]

there is no doubt we shall have a very large increase in foreign trade. The question how the goods are to be paid for will be a matter for arrangement. We must not let the people of the country receive too quickly the benefits of that trade so that there will be too much prosperity all at once. It has to be done gradually. Then as time goes on we shall have the opportunity for creating new desires, for such things as labour-saving devices; opportunities for increasing the standard of living; public works will not take care of everything, although there will be plenty of public works to be done. But we must not allow too much prosperity too quickly; that is the warning I give now.

There is no use in just having a bill like this; it is a good gesture, but to my mind there is a good deal of eyewash in it. Unless we do all these other things it will be only a scrap of paper, just the same as anything else that is not thought out far enough ahead. Therefore I suggest to the Minister of Labour that now is the time to set up a parliamentary committee which will have the time and can give a good deal of thought to the matter, and can call in economic experts to help them so that they can plan comprehensively for the future. That would be far and away ahead of trying to compel something, as this bill would do, which you cannot compel unless you take into consideration all the factors of which I have just spoken. It is a tremendous problem.

People say to-day; Oh, we cannot do anything else now but think of the war. It is true that the war effort demands our utmost power, but there is no reason why the government should not be putting its best foot forward and preparing a plan for the future. This will aid our war effort. Anything that can be done to provide for our men when they return is all to the good. I am all in favour of it, but we should go further than that.

Another aspect of a situation such as this is that of contributory old age pensions.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would call the hon. member's attention to the fact that old age pensions do not come within the purview of this bill and are not germane to the matter before the house.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I submit that it is quite in order for the hon. member to suggest them as an additional remedy for the condition he has in mind.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will allow a certain latitude so long as I can see some