

Brown and Sharpe Manufacturing Company of Providence to introduce the principle of equal pay for equal work for their 7,600 workers. The company had offered to reduce the differential between the wages for men and for women to a maximum of 20 per cent.

That, however, was not satisfactory, and they were ordered to institute equal pay. It is further stated, in the September, 1942, issue of the *Labour Gazette*, page 996:

A recent memorandum of Canada's national war labour board in effect recognized the practical application of the principle of equal pay for equal work.

The Canadian labour board has recognized that principle, and if the Minister of Labour wishes to relieve himself of some pending dangers he had better take cognizance of the things which are being said on this matter.

I wanted to divide my speech this afternoon between two topics, industry and agriculture, but time will not permit me to say all I have in mind in connection with agriculture, so that I shall do that on another occasion, nor have I been able to deal as fully as I hoped to do with this industrial problem. I trust that the government will give serious consideration to the calling of a secret session of parliament to discuss the report of the war expenditures committee, so that all our members will be thoroughly informed as to what has taken place before the committee all the way across Canada. A secret session will enable us to discuss the subject among ourselves with benefit not only to ourselves but to the country's war effort. I will leave it at that, but as I said, if the government is not going to hold a secret session we shall discuss the report otherwise when the opportunity arises.

Mr. J. A. GREGORY (The Battlefords): Mr. Speaker, the speech from the throne deals with many important and weighty subjects. A number of speakers have already referred to many of these subjects, and I hesitated to add to the repetition by again referring to some of these matters. However, on account of the nature of the subjects with which I propose to deal I have decided to stick to my notes and, at the expense of being wearisome or repetitious, I propose to deal with some of them again.

I am sure, in the first place, that we can congratulate ourselves, as the speech from the throne mentions, on the vastly improved war picture since this house rose last August. Second, I am sure the country at large will receive with every satisfaction the news—to quote from the speech from the throne—that—
... the progressive expansion of the navy will be continued. The army programme will include the maintenance and reinforcement of the overseas army of two corps, and the maintenance of units and formations required for

the territorial and coastal defence of Canada and other areas in the western hemisphere. The air force will continue its three-fold activities. . . .

May I digress for a moment from the speech from the throne to say that I believe many people throughout the country are beginning to doubt the wisdom of the size of the army pattern. The seventh and eighth divisions crept into our war pattern when there appeared to be imminent danger of invasion from Japan and invasion likewise of the eastern coast. We are attempting in our war effort to maintain eight divisions with all the ancillary units and tank units and reinforcements required. Men in the country are just wondering if we have not cut our army pattern—and I am speaking entirely of the army—too generously for the cloth available. In other words, when we consider the growing demands of man-power for war industry, including shipbuilding; the actual shortage of man-power on the farms, with which I propose to deal in a moment, to produce for the fighting men and civilians at home and abroad, the ever-expanding naval man-power requirements, and the growing air force and accelerating demands for reinforcements in this service particularly, I ask myself with misgiving if the army has not cut a pattern out of all proportion to the total man-power available in Canada.

I realize that the man-power in Canada must be further combed out of non-essential industry and transferred to more essential industry, that further age groups must be mustered and that women must be trained for many classes of duties which they have not undertaken heretofore. This, sir, will probably be an awful year of wastage, and Canadians, I am sure, are in the mood to accept, grimly and with determination, any duty which this government may see fit to impose upon them.

While I am on this subject of the proper apportionment of man-power to produce a balanced and most effective war effort, I wish to refer to the order in council of last March respecting farm labour being frozen on the farms, which has been referred to repeatedly by previous speakers. I believe every hon. member understood that order in council, and I believe they understood that the divisional boards in Canada had no power thenceforth to draft young men from farms when it could be proven that the sole or main occupation of the draftee was farming. That was my understanding of the order in council and of the speech made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) on March 23. I do not know whether other provinces have reason to