

think one of the members from Manitoba was with us. I can soon refresh the minister's mind on that.

Mr. ILSLEY: That was about a year ago.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Only the other day the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) referred to his inability to get money for the things which he needed. He realized that he needed things and it was simply a question of money. Time and again it has been declared in the hearing of every member of this house that financial considerations would not be allowed to be a hindrance to achievement in this country, that the only consideration would be our material and human resources. But such is not the situation. Did the minister borrow that money from the chartered banks because he wanted to do it? Did he do it because he did not have the material and human resources in Canada which were necessary to achieve the ends which he wished to achieve with the amount of money he borrowed from the banks? Not by any manner of means. Despite his protestations that he will make financially possible whatever is physically possible; despite the brave front which he puts on from coast to coast of Canada and for which everyone admires him; despite his strenuous efforts the minister is hampered by the limitations which result from the financial system which he is endeavouring to make work in this country.

I say that the time has come for a change. In the interests of the minister; in the interests of Canada's war effort; in the interests of the future the time has come for this chamber to consider the advisability of making a change. I, therefore, move as an amendment to the motion of the Minister of Finance:

That all the words after the word "that" be struck out and that the following be substituted therefor:

"this house regrets that the government still disregards the possible uses of government-created national money to the end that in so far as taxation and the borrowing of the people's savings fail to meet government expenditures the government might employ national money:

(a) To relieve the debt situation which threatens the ownership and control of a great many private businesses, factories, farms and other means of production.

(b) To pay farmers and other primary producers fair prices thereby stimulating the production of food.

(c) To provide workers with adequate purchasing power.

(d) To alleviate the distress of the aged and others in needy circumstances.

(e) To prevent inflation by the subsidizing of industry where costs are uncontrollable, adopting where necessary a more aggressive and consistent rationing policy."

[Mr. Blackmore]

The matter with which I am going to concern myself more particularly is the impairment in production which has developed as a result of the government's financial policy. The Minister of Finance is paying far too little attention to the production of the needs of life in this country. From the beginning of the war too little attention has been given to the influence of wages and prices upon production. The armed forces have taken away our man-power, as has been urged with great eloquence and persistence in this house, and the wages paid to workers in munitions plants have drawn workers away from agriculture and other primary industries. The result is that there has developed the alarming shortage of labour which has been elaborated upon in this house.

I am not saying that what was done was not quite satisfactory. I am not saying that those two measures for obtaining men should have been avoided. I am not in agreement with those who would have impaired the chances of increasing this country's munitions production and this country's armed forces in order to take care of agriculture. But I contend that there were ways of overcoming this labour shortage in agricultural and other primary industries. Efforts should have been made to subsidize or bonus wages in our primary industries in order to draw into those industries women, elderly men, and many of the more or less unemployable who would have been willing to do all they could to help.

I am not sure that the house completely senses the seriousness of food in our war economy. I think that factor has been rather neglected. I should like to read to the house some quotations from the statement of Mr. Herbert Hoover. These have been gathered together by Mr. M. M. Robinson, manager of the Ontario food distribution council. I draw particular attention to the following:

Food supply has now become secondary only to military operations in determining the outcome of the war. And it will take first place in saving the world from anarchy after the war.

And again:

The burden of furnishing food supplies to the united nations now and to a starving world after the war rests largely upon the American and Canadian farmer.

Again:

Agriculture simply must be envisaged as a munitions industry. The farmer must receive men and tools if he is to perform his part.

And again:

The news comes daily from all parts of the country that the farmer is sending his dairy cows to slaughter for lack of labour. And this is amply verified by the arrivals at the slaughter houses.