

shops, Montreal, where the production of the Valentine tank is to be discontinued. According to their statement some 4,000 men will be affected, of whom only 1,500 may be taken over for the production of other war equipment. The war expenditures committee had this matter before them at one time, and we were given some assurance that when this time came the men would be given other war work to do. I wonder if the minister, either to-day or to-morrow, for he has not had time to look into it, would be prepared to make a statement, because this matter is seriously disturbing a large number of men in Montreal.

Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Munitions and Supply): With regard to the position of the Angus shops, I am aware that newspaper reports are current that there will be a suspension of the production of Valentine tanks on April 1. That is by no means a certainty. Discussions are going on at the present moment looking to the continuation of the contract. It depends upon a number of factors, some of which are beyond our immediate control, but I should say there is an even chance that the work may be continued. In any event, if the work is discontinued there is other work to go into the Angus shops. We are short of capacity in certain lines, and it is probable that there will be a transference of part of the capacity, in any event. With regard to the transfer of only a portion of the men to other work, I can assure my hon. friend that everyone at present working at the Angus shops will be transferred to employment either in the Angus shops or in other plants in Montreal. Those men are skilled mechanics, and there is and will be I think a real shortage of skilled mechanics.

VISIT TO OTTAWA OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
MONTREAL DISTRICT AIRCRAFT WORKERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Labour. The other day a strike delegation from Montreal, representing aircraft workers, was in Ottawa, and asked a certain settlement of difficulties and grievances which were troubling them. I understand that they were given some assurance that their troubles would be looked into, and some adjustment made. Is the Minister of Labour in a position to report to the house the progress made in settling their grievances?

Hon. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (Minister of Labour): I believe the question the hon. member has just asked was answered yesterday by the Prime Minister.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is correct.  
[Mr. Coldwell.]

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Wednesday, February 3, consideration of the motion of Mr. W. E. Harris (Grey-Bruce) for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Graydon, and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Coldwell.

Mr. THOMAS REID (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, the speech from the throne this year was one of the most encouraging and reassuring delivered to parliament since the beginning of the war in 1939. Recent successes in Libya, Russia and the Pacific, coupled with the news which has come out from Casablanca to the effect that the allies are now able to maintain the initiative, and will do so this year, has given renewed hope and courage, not only to the Canadian people and their friends across the boundary line, but to all peoples in slavery and under the heel of the nazi and Japanese dictators. Canada's contribution has to a large extent contributed to the initiative we are about to take. Our contribution has been most effective, both as to the men and women in the services and as to the large quantities of munitions and supplies we have sent to Great Britain and our allies.

While continuation of the war until the unconditional surrender of our enemies must be our first consideration, the proposed measures outlined in the speech from the throne with respect to social security have been well received throughout the entire length and breadth of Canada. Some measure of social security was to be expected. In fact I may go further and say that keen disappointment would have been felt by many of us, especially in view of the Beveridge report, had the government not made certain proposals looking to the establishment of social security, the provision of useful remunerative employment, the removal of fear and want, and the creation of a national system of health insurance.

This is not the time to deal with details of any proposed recommendations in respect of social security, but I would commend to members of the special committee to be set up to deal with the report, and to every member of the house, a study of the Beveridge report. It is my opinion that it is the finest document of its kind in the world to-day. It is published by the Macmillan company, and since only a few copies are available in the parliamentary library I suggest to the govern-