

speech from the throne, but I should like to make, if I can, a little contribution in furtherance of this discussion.

I believe the leader of the opposition (Mr. Graydon) has pretty well set out the policy of the Progressive Conservative party in relation to the matters that are most urgent in our country to-day. I believe, too, that the Hon. John Bracken, in his fourteen points, given some time before the Winnipeg convention, when he was guiding the provincial ship of state and before he took the helm of the national dreadnought, has set a beacon at which this government might very well aim and, I think, has aimed to some extent in the speech from the throne.

As I listened to the hon. member for York South (Mr. Noseworthy) describing the little old lady who went to Winnipeg, got her divorce, married her new love—as he stated—and came back to the ship of state, I could not help feeling that, in the light of the attitude of the socialist party for which he spoke, who in western Canada call themselves the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, Labour, and Farmers' party and are so addicted to bigamy in their three-fold name, their three-fold life, and their practice of bridegrooms' promises, the hon. member should be well qualified to make that comparison.

I also understand that the hon. member for York South has been for some time in the teaching profession and that as a teacher in a secondary school he is expected to know a good deal of history. I am afraid that his lack of knowledge of Canadian history and Canadian parliamentary institutions displayed itself rather flagrantly in that he did not know, or did not profess to know, that the leader of this dominion at the time of confederation, Sir John A. Macdonald, called this party the Progressive Conservative party.

I should like to join those who have already spoken in this debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne in drawing the attention of the house to what I regard as a most regrettable omission, the failure to mention or, at any rate, sufficiently mention the most important and most critical problems facing our country to-day—man-power and woman-power; labour relations; agriculture; and, I might add, finance as a fourth.

Our most difficult problem, a problem demanding immediate attention in Canada, is the allocation of man-power. It will be generally agreed, I believe, that the drawing of men and women from peace-time pursuits into war production, to the extent that we have carried it, does of necessity diminish the supply of labour, but I do not think we in Canada

[Mr. Boucher.]

can say that we are really short of labour yet. Our problem is the result of improper placement of labour. Labour is not used in the most efficient manner, and the government of the day has lacked initiative and courage. It has not shown the initiative which it should have done in the placing of men and women.

I was privileged this fall, as a member of the war expenditures committee, to visit a great many of the aeroplane production plants in Canada, as well as some in the United States. What struck me with amazing force was the part which women are playing to-day in the manufacture of aeroplanes in this country. I believe that about fifteen or twenty per cent of our employees in aircraft production are women. In one of the great factories of the United States the percentage is as high as forty, of women engaged in that industry. The objective is from sixty-five to seventy-five per cent of women employees in aircraft production. That is their immediate objective, and it is one at which we, as members of the House of Commons, and the government particularly, could very well aim. The women of the country, I am sure, are only too willing to put their hands and their hearts into an all-out war production effort, but that problem has scarcely yet been touched in Canada. In the allocation of man-power we have something that could not only harness our man-power and increase our production but, to a great extent, bring about equality of sacrifice and continuity as well as equality of service among the Canadian people.

Take the position of key men in industry. That is a serious point in the war effort to-day. Expanding our industries as we are doing and training our men as we are, throughout the length and breadth of Canada, as members of that committee we could see that particularly in the aircraft production industry many of our key men, many of our best trained men in the field of aircraft production, men skilled in the production of certain types of planes, were on what was known as slow-downs through lack of material, as a result of the inefficient allocation of man-power in our primary industries producing raw materials. Our plants were capable of manufacturing two, three and even four times what they are now doing. They had the men, to a great extent capable men, and the plants were certainly capable of manufacturing aircraft; but the men were sitting down, slowed down waiting for material. They were held by the firms who had employed them, where the organizations were disrupted by reason of slack time, waiting for conversion of a factory from one type of plane to another, instead of being