

Bennett, appointed a committee. Its work was crystallized by the new government a year later in a scheme under which nearly \$80,000,000 have been spent on small housing. There is not a word in the address about that. Where are our soldiers to live when the war is over? The government of the day cannot solve the problem of housing even in this one city of Ottawa. How are they going to solve it on a nation-wide scale? One of the main reasons for the decline of agriculture in this country has been the lack of proper housing facilities for the urban, suburban and rural sections. It remains one of our most important problems, with no mention of it in the speech from the throne. Where are houses to be found? When the soldiers come home they will be living in hovels, the way they did after the last war. The government made a football of this question last session; although I brought it to the attention of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) almost every week, they did nothing about it. There was a cry of shortage of materials; yet we find sufficient steel and iron can be provided for railway terminals and other places.

What about reforms for the benefit of Canadian youth? In 1935 and 1938, speaking on this question, I proposed to the then Minister of Labour, the late Mr. Rogers, that a plan whereby the young men who were coming out of the high schools at the rate of 200,000 a year could learn a trade, get pocket money, food, clothing and housing and deferred pay, with military training, instead of riding the rods. That was rejected by the minister. Had it been adopted, we should have had 25,000 air cadets, trained pilots and mechanics before the war started.

As regards soldiers' bonuses, I would merely ask hon. members to look at the way in which that question has been handled during the past three years.

The speech from the throne refers to parliamentary under-secretaries. In my opinion it is a system which is not adapted to this country. I have opposed and will continue to oppose it. We have a cabinet of nineteen, nearly three times the size of the cabinet of the United States, a country of 134,000,000 people; and with the controls we have, costing \$4,000,000 a year, much of the work is taken away from the minister. The system proposed is duplication and a waste of money.

The government says nothing about what it is going to do to restore the country of Macdonald and Laurier, when Canada was a nation of property owners, so that the poor retail man, the small man, and the wholesalers will be no longer hamstrung by these controls. I have asked the cost, but the minister does

[Mr. Church.]

not know, from week to week, or from month to month, what the control system is costing.

There is another matter I wish to point out to the house, as I did last June. The auditor general does not audit one cent of the appropriation bills. That is provided for by the cabinet by order in council. Talk about expenditures; there is very little check or audit on them, as far as I can see.

As regards income tax, in 1927 and for three years before that I had a resolution before the house to restore the income tax to the municipalities, where it was before the great war. Their exclusive right of taxation in this field was invaded in 1917 by the dominion for the purposes of the war. When the late Mr. Robb was Minister of Finance it was proposed by me during those debates that we should have a pay-as-you-go plan.

One would like to refer to the war in the Pacific, because the issue is going to be decided there by the command of the sea, and it is not going to be easy going. There is no royal road to victory. Let us devote our whole time to the war. Let us recognize that neither blockade nor propaganda nor attacks from the air will win this war. There must also be an invasion of Germany on land.

I have been glad to see the success in Africa, where the much abused British army has saved the day. Those men are the very same troops who were attacked last spring during the battle of Egypt and they have proved their quality. Once provided with mechanized equipment which made them more nearly equal to the enemy, they conquered them very quickly. There was never any doubt among the people of the empire as to the ability of those wonderful troops, the famous British army, assisted as they were by troops from the dominions, when once they were put on equal terms with their opponents.

I believe several important matters have been left out of the speech from the throne. One is civil aviation. There is not one word with reference to it. Unless Canada gets busy in this direction, it will lose the opportunity of providing a great deal of work after the war for our soldiers. We are further behind in civil aviation than almost any other country. All that has been done is to write essays and that kind of thing. If one gets down to brass tacks, what else has been achieved? Not a thing. As mayor of Toronto I raised this question with Ottawa after the great war. Colonel Barker, V.C., Colonel Collishaw and other airmen were in Toronto for about three months after they came back