

governments of the world come to understand that, they will not be afraid of increasing and elaborating their Mutual Aid agreements to the extent that the international distribution of goods will be based upon mutually acceptable arrangements rather than upon cut-throat competition, which works to the disadvantage of the weakest nations, the ones most in need of trade. Through cut-throat competition they lose their trade.

Mr. HOWDEN: Finally your solution consists in the distribution of debt-free money?

Mr. BLACKMORE: Yes, the distribution of debt-free money up to the limit of the nation's capacities to absorb that debt-free money by reason of the goods and services which the nation produces. That money is used in raising the standard of living in the economy.

Thus Mutual Aid can be extended to the degree necessary to enable all peoples to be free from want and free from fear. Thus trade rivalry can be reduced and eliminated, and thus the main cause of war can be removed.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the government call in one of these many committees on reconstruction, perhaps the present reconstruction committee of the House of Commons, and say to the chairman, "Now look here, you are perfectly at liberty to call witnesses and examine papers to discover whether or not there is any validity in this contention of monetary reform. Go into the matter with very great care and call in as witnesses the men who know about it."

Mr. GARDINER: We called Douglas the last time.

Mr. BLACKMORE: And he would have done an extremely good job, but for men like Hackett who did everything they could to hurt him and prevent his voice from being heard. If you call men like Douglas and have a committee that is sympathetic and ready to learn, and that is not trying to destroy him politically, not trying to get some little thing which it can magnify out of all proportion as certain Liberal members on the banking and commerce committee are doing to-day, you will learn a great deal of truth. I suggest that the government adopt that policy with at least two or three of these committees on reconstruction, and I guarantee that within a year they will have a great deal more light on this vexatious problem of distribution than they have to-day.

The governor of the Bank of Canada in his annual report has indicated what the possibilities would be if we began to create money

[Mr. Blackmore.]

to represent the tremendous capacity for production which we shall have immediately at the close of the war. I commend to hon. members the remarks made by the governor of the Bank of Canada on page 11 of his annual report to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley). He says:

By the end of 1943 the gainfully occupied population had risen to approximately 5,100,000 but about 1,900,000 of these were engaged in the armed forces, in supplying the weapons of war, or in producing the food required for special war-time exports. The number available to meet civilian needs had therefore fallen to about 3,200,000, but at the same time the average standard of living had risen materially and was probably higher than it had ever been.

How serious that is, and imagine what will happen when the others return and are producing goods themselves!

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. THOMAS FARQUHAR (Algoma East): Mr. Speaker, in taking part in this debate I wish to say, first, that I am sure we all greatly appreciate what has been accomplished by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley). His accomplishment has made it possible for Canada to carry on a war effort which has brought praise from outstanding men in all the allied nations. The Minister of Finance has indeed proved himself a great financier. To raise eight billions of dollars loaned from the people of Canada would appear almost an impossibility for a country with the population that we have, and it is indeed a great achievement. Notwithstanding this, the people of Canada are better off financially than they have ever been. I am informed that the savings accounts to-day are two and a half billions as compared with one and a half billions when the war began.

The one dark spot in Canada's war effort has been the lack of cooperation the government has received from some members of the opposition parties. It is indeed a sad thing in time of war that men cannot forget their politics and give the government some cooperation. We have been here now for five months and it looks as though we shall be here two or three months longer, when many of us should be at home doing more useful work. I am sure the people of Canada do not appreciate the actions of some members of the opposition parties.