

dominion-provincial proposals about which I would want to say something to-night in a general way.

The government states that when it confirmed by its signature the declaration of Philadelphia, when it gave expression to the Atlantic charter, when it went to San Francisco, when it joined with the other nations of this world in urging a programme of high employment, the government meant to do that very thing. Its whole plans are designed for that very purpose. This government is determined that it be given a chance to implement these plans. This government is determined to implement these plans.

In the first instance the government affirms that its plans represent aims in the post-war period no less conclusive than in war. It is the aims of the government through these proposals to adapt the functions of the provincial and federal governments to the most practical considerations in order to achieve a high level of employment. One is constantly faced with the suggestion that while the government has waged a war diligently, while it has worked long hours and the like, it has brought no vigour to the kind of problem and to the situation that is now facing us in the world and at home.

At the civil service level, a civil service of which this country has every reason to be proud, there has been a painstaking effort along this very line. At the parliamentary level, through the reconstruction committees, many of the proposals of which are embodied in the government's programme, consideration has been given to the planning of this period of reconstruction and post-war. Then at the government level—as one member of this house who has recently joined the government I can say this—the head of this government is prepared to resort to those measures that will achieve the purpose. There is an abandoning of reaction. The administration is prepared to go boldly ahead. I was never more convinced of that than I have been since I have been a member of the government.

The government believes at the moment that the bulk of employment can be provided by giving private initiative an opportunity of providing that employment. In the period of the slack it is believed that the job can best be done through a system of public investment, to be implemented at the most opportune time to put the plan into effect with the best possible results.

There are certain circumstances and certain considerations that must be borne in mind. We must give to industry—by industry I do not mean only the factory; I mean agricul-

[Mr. Martin.]

ture as well—every opportunity to provide outlets for the goods and services produced. Every effort must be made to see that we recover our former markets among the nations of the world. This country, dependent as she is to the extent of thirty-five per cent of her national income on what she sells to other nations of the world, is dependent more than ever upon collaboration between nations, is dependent more than ever upon a satisfactory measure of commercial relations with other countries. During the war we had an expanded war production, and this places upon all of us the responsibility of seeing that there is afforded an opportunity of an increased output, for both domestic and export purposes, with a resulting increase in personal income for all Canadians.

Because of our dependence upon the export market the government is compelled, perhaps as it never has been compelled, to seek to have the most satisfactory relations with other countries of the world. To that end it is part of the policy of this government—perhaps no part of its endeavour is as important—to make sure that it does its bit in removing from commercial intercourse with other nations those needless trade barriers that have so often in the past proven to be provocative of friction and of trouble between nations. I think we cannot overlook the fact that this government has provided, along with only one other country of the world, Mutual Aid, as we call it, and has thereby created employment at home as well as provided assistance to our allies. After the war this government is to embark on a programme of extensions of credit to other countries. This will have a two-fold objective. First, it will provide work at home and, at the same time, it will fulfil our humanitarian obligations to other nations.

When the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilesley)—I hope I am not anticipating what he may say—brings down his programme of international credits there will be a more vivid realization of what this means in providing employment. We shall then realize the number of countries in the world that have often been extolled in this house as models, and who are now asking for credit to tide them over during the difficult period of the present and the immediate future. One will be amazed, first of all, at the extent of the requests made for financial help, and, second, that we have been expected and are able to meet these requests.

The relation of this to the providing of a high level of employment is that in providing these extensions of credit in amounts that are of very large proportions we are thereby furnishing an opportunity to our people to

obtain a living for themselves and for their families through the work that will thus be created. As the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bracken) has suggested to-day, and as the leader of the C.C.F. (Mr. Coldwell) has suggested, the government must be prepared to state in bold terms what it intends to do to meet this objective of a high level of employment. These objectives are to be found in the proposals of the government which were laid before the provinces.

This dominion-provincial conference, the preparatory stage of which has been set, at which the provinces were given an opportunity of learning what the federal government had in mind, will finally be resolved at a later date. It demonstrated a remarkable measure of understanding and cooperation between the ten governments of this country. This objective of a high level of employment the government proposed to meet, first, by facilitating private initiative in the production of employment; second, by promoting bold action by the state in those fields in which the public interest calls for public enterprise in national development; third, by providing through public investment employment for our human and physical resources when international and other conditions adversely affect employment and, fourth, by providing against age and uncertain individual risks, against such hazards and disabilities as unemployment, sickness and old age.

That statement which characterizes the government's programme is a statement which upon analysis will be found to be the kind of thing that has been suggested by several hon. members to-day. There is no effort to meet the problem by clinging to old labels or to old ideals. The government is determined, with its sense of responsibility in this situation, to resort to those measures, whether through public or private investment, which will provide our people with the kind of heritage and the kind of security which we all in this house, regardless of party, know they are entitled to and toward which we must aim. So it does not help to suggest that any one group has any exclusive panacea for any of these gigantic problems. Whether or not other parties in this house are prepared to resort to measures which are said to be unorthodox, to achieve these purposes, this government in its statement of policy laid before the dominion-provincial conference outlined a course of action which, in the language of one of the commentators, is as bold as any government in the united nations since the war has been prepared to embark upon.

Many of these problems which we face will not be solved without understanding and

cooperation. They will not be solved by pitting one group against another, by creating needless suspicion or hate. The government believes that labour, which properly is looking for opportunities of income, is an important group in the community and in the nation. No man need apologize for the attitude of the Prime Minister in the whole period of his public life as to his attitude toward labour. No prime minister of this country has had a more sympathetic understanding of the right of the workers to protect themselves and to do so by means of organization. And I believe that no government has done more than the government under his direction to extend to that great body of Canadian citizens those rights which the trade union organization of this country has persisted over the years in trying to obtain, and which in its broad essentials has now obtained.

During the war the government recognized the desirability of cooperation between labour and management—between labour, management and the government in the prosecution of the common endeavour. At the beginning of the war it said to employers, "We recognize the desirability of employers entering into collective bargaining arrangements with the workers." A few years after the war began, recognizing that there were sources of friction between management and labour, in the adoption of P.C. 103 it did something which labour leaders, including the president of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, the heads of the Canadian Congress of Labour, and other groups, recognized as having provided labour at long last, on a national basis, with a charter in which there was adequate recognition of labour's rights as well as its responsibilities. With the extension of that principle through labour-management production committees, industrial councils and the like there was reflected the determination of the government during war and peace to give industry direction and leadership whereby it hoped that labour, management and capital would be able to work along lines of common endeavour instead of at cross-purposes.

Labour has made great gains during the war. The trades union membership of 300,000 in 1939 has risen to a little over 700,000 at the end of the war. These are gains which should not frighten anybody. A strong trade union movement is a good thing for Canada, and the government believes that it can achieve for labour and, indeed, for Canada itself gains which are legitimately theirs. In its plan of reconversion and other post-war measures the government proposes to encourage the same cooperation between labour and