

These investigators always try to find at least one article without a price tag; then how they love to lodge a prosecution. As was well said by the hon. member for Lincoln yesterday, many of these officials had no previous experience in the work they are attempting to do, but armed with official authority they take delight in causing annoyance to our retail merchants. It is no wonder that yesterday the hon. member for Lincoln said that a little action with a shotgun would be in order. Surely we Canadians have enough sense and business ability to run our own affairs without having government officials constantly at our elbows, trying to tell us what to do and asking us to complete endless stupid forms and answer silly questions. As the hon. member suggested, let this horde of officials now in the employ of the wartime prices and trade board be put in the production line. If they had to go to work for a living you might find many of them on relief. Is it any wonder there is a black market in this country in almost every article that is in short supply? These black markets will continue until such time as the law of supply and demand operates, and it can operate only when production is increased. One of the most effective ways of having the law of supply and demand operate is to have all controls removed and throw the wartime prices and trade board, together with the czar who operates it, into the discard.

Surely at this late date the government must realize that no law can be enforced which has not the backing of the public, and certainly in my opinion the general public no longer support controls, nor do they wish the activities of the wartime prices and trade board to continue. Of course the thousands of employees of that board who now have cushy jobs and some measure of authority—and how these little officials love some authority—will want the board to continue indefinitely. The control of lumber is a typical example. In any county where there is considerable lumbering a black market has existed for months and years, and will continue to exist until the controls are removed. The government can hardly complain of the cooperation they received during the war from the Canadian lumber dealers' association and the retail lumber dealers' association. Surely, then, after this cooperation the government timber control officials must have some confidence in these organizations, so why not remove these timber controls?

In regard to veterans affairs I should like to mention only one matter; it has to do with veterans who are in receipt of pension and are attending university. These veterans who receive pensions do not receive their full

monthly educational grants of \$60 for unmarried men and \$80 for married men. This educational grant is the reestablishment credit due to the veteran. I would ask the minister why this grant should be cut down or reduced in any way. So far as I know, a veteran who takes up his reestablishment credit under the Veterans' Land Act, and who receives a pension, does not suffer any reduction in the amount he receives, nor does a veteran who takes up his reestablishment credit in any other manner receive a lesser amount on account of his pension.

In many instances the veteran who is not disabled and who is attending university is able to undertake certain work and thereby earn additional moneys. This opportunity is denied the veteran who is disabled. I hope the Minister of Veterans Affairs will in the near future do something to correct this injustice.

Mr. DAVID GOURD (Chapleau) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, as the representative of one of the northeastern Quebec constituencies, I wish to congratulate the hon. member for Prince (Mr. MacNaught) on his excellent speech on the address in reply to the speech from the throne and on the interest he takes in his constituency and the country at large.

I must also compliment the new member for Richelieu-Verchères (Mr. Cournoyer), the successor of the Hon. P. J. A. Cardin. Seeing the sincerity, the tact and the fluency of our young colleague, I have felt proud for the constituency of Richelieu-Verchères and the whole country. The thirty-five years spent in the public service by his predecessor will not have been lost. His work will be continued; the new member has the required ability for assuming such a heavy succession.

Mr. Speaker, as I intend to tell about my constituency, Chapleau, its economic possibilities and its needs, may I be allowed to congratulate the government and the Hon. the Minister of Transport (Mr. Chevrier), on the foresight they have shown in deciding to build in my constituency a railroad branch line from Barraute to Kiask Falls. It is expected that the work, which has already started, will be completed about the end of 1947. Kiask Falls was a strategic choice, since it will be easy to extend that branch line toward the west, in the direction of the Haricana valley and toward the northeast, along the Bell river valley, as far as the Chibougamau district.

Mr. Speaker, while speaking in this house on July 24, 1946, I quoted figures to prove that if northwestern Quebec may