

which dares to admit that it is Conservative, and that government can be found in the province of Ontario.

During the election campaign we placed our ideas and proposals squarely before the people. They differed fundamentally from those of all other parties seeking the support of the country, and we are certain that time will demonstrate that our programme and policies are sound, offering the intelligent solution to the many grave problems which confront this country and, indeed, the world, problems which will have to be faced by all of us in the not far distant future.

I want to remind the government this afternoon that they have made specific and well understood promises regarding full employment, homes and social security. We do not believe that those promises can be realized without public enterprise and public national planning, and the nation will not forget those promises, even if the posters have disappeared from the billboards. On those billboards, let us remember, one word stood out above all others. You remember it? The word was *j-o-b-s—jobs*. But the government and all other parties except the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation proclaimed the view that capitalist free enterprise can and will provide the jobs. Well, it did not do so before the war, when hundreds of thousands of Canadians were unemployed and on relief. Then our hon. friend the new leader of the opposition was in power in Manitoba and his present friends were in power in Canada, to be followed by the right hon. gentleman who is again Prime Minister of Canada, under both of whom many thousands continued to be unemployed for months, even after the war began. Can the system they both support do any better now? I do not think so, nor indeed does the world generally. As I said a few moments ago, in our British commonwealth of nations only one admittedly Conservative government remains in power; that is in Ontario. The democratic movement that we represent in this house is one which world-wide reaction cannot stop. Reactionaries may, in some countries remote from the physical effects of war, continue their exploitation and their economic power for a time, but the handwriting is on the wall, and the day will come, and come soon, when it will be said of them that they have been "weighed in the balance and found wanting."

"Jobs and adequate incomes for all"—that was the government's pledge to the people. We will help them to fulfil that pledge in every way we can; yes, and we will continue day by day and week by week to demand that they do fulfil it. To achieve it, new jobs

[Mr. Coldwell.]

must be found for more than 2,000,000 people more than were employed in war-time civilian production.

I am not saying that a semblance of prosperity may not develop during the period when world reconstruction is in progress and the pent-up buying power and demand accumulated during the war are again factors in our domestic economy. But I believe that this will be followed by a slump which only large-scale public investment and expenditure under public ownership and control, carried out in conjunction with comprehensive national economic planning, will be able to mitigate.

Meantime, as the Prime Minister and the leader of the opposition both pointed out and admitted this afternoon, we are facing immediate problems resulting from the sudden cessation of hostilities and, I believe, the unpreparedness of the government to meet them.

The Canadian people have been led to believe that the Liberal party promised full employment and well-paid jobs under decent conditions of work, and in addition, all the benefits of collective bargaining, a voice in the management of industry, plus the prospect of gradually increasing wages and gradually decreasing hours of work.

What is the present situation? True, in spite of the deepening unemployment and serious housing shortage, the gracious speech adopts a tone of official satisfaction. It says: . . . Canada was prepared to meet the very difficult situations which would arise when victory had been won.

Referring specifically to housing, it speaks with satisfaction of "plans already in operation."

There is, then, smug satisfaction with obviously wholly inadequate policies and, second, no indication that further action is planned. This surely adds up to peace-time unpreparedness.

Let us consider the employment situation. If families could be fed, clothed, housed and kept together by the official assurances of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) and the Minister of Reconstruction (Mr. Howe) there would be no employment problem to-day. The latest of these reassurances which I have seen states that there were 124,000 jobs to be filled and only 53,000 persons looking to fill them; so then, no unemployment problem!

But what are these jobs? Many are seasonal jobs when packing, harvesting, processing demands are exceptionally heavy. But there are physical difficulties for the worker in taking such seasonal jobs. He has to get to the place where he is wanted whereas war workers are concentrated in the areas where