

our share of responsibility for the shortcomings of that era, and I include the prophets of the new utopia with the rest. The only difference between them and us is that they are trying to perpetuate the memory, to seize on that unfortunate chapter of our history and intimate that while the rest of us were going to economic damnation along certain lines, they were looking the other way seeking in order to prevent the anchor from dragging. I do not see it that way. They look to the past, saying to the public, Look here, when the whole works start to slip back down the hill we have the biggest block to put under the wheel; we have something brand new to block the wheel with, and if you will trust us you will never go back. But you will not get up the hill by blocking the wheel. My wish is that when the time comes to resume our upward climb we shall have the vision to give new leadership so that all will put their shoulder to the wheel in the spirit of the pioneers, who came to this country not just to get rid of persecution and difficulty and merely hoping to have exactly what they had over there except for the removal of the things that troubled them. They were not satisfied with that; they did not endure the hardships of the pioneer for that; they came to build something better, not only something which did away with the things which caused them to come here, but something finer and better for their sons than had existed before.

I venture to say that this is the spirit which motivates large numbers of the people of Manitoba. We have not been caught up in the dizzy whirl of the intense activities of the industrialized parts of Canada. We have had time in the evenings, and some of us unfortunately in the daytime, to look at the picture of the past, to think about those sons and daughters of ours who are not with us, who are engaged elsewhere, and we are thinking of what is going to happen to them when they return. We are wondering what we are going to be able to offer them; and, if the boys who are in the actual theatres of war are also wondering what they are to return to, if it is any consolation to them at the present time, we too are thinking about it. One of our conclusions is that we cannot go along forever with twelve or fifteen million people scattered across a country which has a governmental and industrial set-up sufficient for a terrific expansion of population. Many of us on the prairies have watched the growth of the city of Winnipeg. Some remember it when it was hardly more than a very small town. I cannot go back that far, but I have seen the population doubled. We recall some of the conditions which caused it to grow, which kept its

sons and daughters at home and made them busy. We are determined that some of those conditions shall return, and we do not expect to accomplish our purpose entirely by legislating ourselves into utopia.

We cannot think all the time of to-morrow; and, as I have said, we should not look backwards except for a moment or two, for humility's sake. It is not enough to have a vision of the future. It is not enough to make up our minds that we will not repeat the mistakes of the past. There is also some obligation to look at the problems of to-day.

I should have liked to speak for a little while, though I shall not do so, about the military contribution which Canada is making in the war. I shall reserve my remarks on that subject to a later time when the department concerned is under discussion and the minister has been restored to health and is in the house.

But there are problems of urgent importance. The plight of the aged in Canada cries aloud for more generous consideration, and I suggest to the government and to the house that the British North America Act will not do for our present needs. Canada expects a better deal and she wants it now.

We are concerned about attacks on the price control measures. We believe in stern measures against those who, for selfish reasons, attempt to undermine the protective influences of both price and wages legislation. Stern measures in dealing with those selfish attempts where they occur would meet with proper acclaim. I would suggest that control must not become a weapon in the hands of either side in an attempt at class war, and the government must see to it, if they are to get the popular support which controls require, that control is a means to an end and not an end in itself. No union, no combine, no individual can afford at this stage of Canada's struggle to contribute for selfish or unworthy ends to the weakening of any war effort.

We cannot overlook the problems of those who are dependent upon the state. I have pleaded on three or four occasions for further consideration of the lot of the aged. I have in committee and in this chamber appealed on more than one occasion for better treatment of the widows of the men who fell in the last war or who have died since, and I am grateful for the announcement that some provision along that line is to be made.

I do not believe that the government or the provinces can afford to wait until the end of the war before doing something about the housing situation in this dominion. I know there is a problem of raw materials as well as of securing skilled labour for doing the work.