

whether he would pin his faith and his action and his war effort on a political sentiment of that kind.

There is quite a diversity of opinion when one comes to Manitoba. What is the Minister of National War Services (Mr. Thorson) doing to make sure we get an all-out war effort? I would like to let the women of Canada answer that. What do the Canadian Women's Voluntary Services think of the effort he is making on behalf of Canada at this difficult time? When they of their own free will and by their own efforts were organizing the women of Canada as best they could to carry on patriotically in this war, suddenly they found themselves bereft of their name, and their objectives taken away from them, through the formation of the Women's War Services of Canada. The Canadian Women's Voluntary Services were doing all their work voluntarily, free of cost to the government, at their own expense; yet they were supplanted overnight by an organization that pays some \$4,800 for a chief, \$3,600 for an assistant chief, and salaries to many others. It may have been necessary to put that work in some sort of order, but would not the better way have been to use the Canadian Women's Voluntary Services, which was already in existence?

Again, referring to a committee on which I have the privilege to serve, I find that in the division which has to do with national salvage and which was under the supervision of a dollar-a-year man, one Mr. Mark Cohen, who was doing a real service to the country in that position and knew something about the business, he has been supplanted by a Mr. Laferle, at \$5,000 a year. He was transportation manager for one of the large companies, but I have not yet been able to find out whether he knows a great deal about the job of work he is now doing.

The idea I want to leave with this house is that the Minister of National War Services, with his past history and his isolationist speeches in this house, and by his very make-up, is not of a kind to stiffen the backbone of the Prime Minister so that he may give us the all-out war effort that our people demand.

The Minister of Mines and Resources (Mr. Crerar), who served in the last Union government, a valuable man of great experience, has been in many grooves of thought, politically speaking, and has hopped from one to the other faster than a grasshopper out west can hop. I think one more hop from him would be a good thing for Canada, and that is if he were to hop across the Hall of Fame to the senate chamber and allow another

[Mr. Harris (Danforth).]

minister to take his place. I say that with all kindness, because I have a great deal of admiration for him, but he lacks the push and drive needed in a minister in war time. He is not as young as he used to be.

I come now to my hon. friends who twin up as the exemplification of youth in this cabinet, gallant and honourable men, the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Gibson) and the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock). Let them rise in their places and show their youth; let them not only show that they have running through their veins the white corpuscles of famous grandsires, but let them try to dig up a few red corpuscles also. So far in this debate we have only had manifestations of the white atom in the ministerial blood stream. I should like to see, especially in this time of stress and strain, the red corpuscles, diatoms or dyads, coming to the surface in these two youthful ministers to prove that they are worthy sons of worthy grandsires.

My hon. friend the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell), gallant gentleman that he is, served in the navy and shows some independence of thought. He has a grip on his department, but let me tell him, Mr. Speaker, that he is not simply operating a department in these serious days but is helping to decide policy on behalf of a nation that is in peril. When he put out to sea as he did in his fine speech the other day, so far, so good. It was too bad that he had to limp back to port. He did not stick to his guns. But he has a chance to redeem himself yet and to come out for an all-out war effort.

My hon. friend (Mr. Howe) who operates the greatest spending department of all in the government should have more help and assistance. I am not going to say very much about him. I would hesitate to harass any minister of the crown, and anything I do say I hope will be of a constructive nature. If it is not of a constructive nature, I trust at any rate it will be of the kind that will rouse hon. gentlemen from their complacency and impel them to more and more concerted action.

From the province down by the sea comes the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley), who is doing a good job in his department, though whether or not he is more of a tax collector than a Minister of Finance is something we have yet to find out. If I could be as modest as he looks in carrying that portfolio, I would feel that perhaps modesty was a blessing under every circumstance. I say to him that he should carry out the ideals of a Minister of Finance, the ideals that he has in his mind and heart, so far as the conduct of the war is concerned. If he does, the Prime Minister

will be greatly assisted in observing the pledge which he gave to the Canadian people when he spoke on this particular measure, declaring that he wished to be free. As I remember his words, he said that in the light of the discussions which would take place in the house in this debate—and he invited speeches from all hon. members—he was determined to give us action.

My leader (Mr. Hanson) on June 9 made a statement which was repeated to-night by the leader of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (Mr. Coldwell), and when the Prime Minister makes his statement in closing the debate I would ask him to reiterate what he said with regard to such action as would be taken after the casting of to-night's vote. I have still an open mind, in view of all these discussions, as to the way in which I am going to vote. I feel like voting for the elimination of the section, and supporting the main motion, but as regards the amendment I am not quite so sure. Once this discussion is out of the way, I hope that we shall have some action on the part of the government, which will result in revitalizing the people throughout Canada and inspiring them with the confident belief that we have an active government that will support the war effort in every possible way.

I have a couple of minutes to spare, and I will therefore come back to the Department of Munitions and Supply. I made a suggestion to the minister in charge of that department and coupled it with a suggestion to the Minister of National War Services (Mr. Thorson). The condition that obtains to-day with respect to those employed in munitions and supply is that they are taking young men of military age for the production of commodities we need in the war—munitions and supply. But old men are not wanted. On Saturday morning last a man named Francis Wilmot, about fifty years of age, applied to the John Inglis Company for a position, but he was rejected on the ground that he was too old. To-day in my mail comes a letter dated July 4, from a young man. I will give the letter to the minister in confidence, because I do not want this young man to be prejudiced in his position with the John Inglis Company. This letter will explain the point I am trying to make. In the course of it this young man says:

The John Inglis Company where I am employed in . . . division, under . . . has taken notice of my application for postponement of my military duties.

This young man is twenty-two years of age, and he was called on June 30. He has eight days from June 30 in which to appear. He wants a postponement and he is of military age, but an older man of fifty years

cannot get a job in the plant. The munition plants are filled with young men who should be serving in the ranks in the army. Can you build an army with men of forty to forty-five? To a degree, yes. At twenty-five I could swim a mile, but at fifty I can swim only a quarter of a mile.

An hon. MEMBER: Can you prove it?

Mr. HARRIS (Danforth): I can prove it. In your salt water, with the buoyancy, I might be able to manage a little more. However, my point is that the Prime Minister could not run one hundred yards as fast to-day as he could twenty-five years ago—

An hon. MEMBER: You don't know the Prime Minister.

Mr. HARRIS (Danforth): I could say something rather unkind but I will not. It might depend on who was chasing him. The house has the sense of what I am saying.

An hon. MEMBER: No.

Mr. HARRIS (Danforth): The older men, I contend, should be put into the munitions plants, and the younger men should be serving in the defence of their country.

Going down again to the province by the sea, we find the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston), who knows pretty well the conditions that exist there, and his views with regard to the plebiscite and conscription are well known. They are not quite as clear, concise and powerful as I should like to see them driven home to his colleagues in the House of Commons. They are not quite as clear, concise and powerful, or as well driven home, as the views of the Minister of National Defence for Air (Mr. Power) who gave the honest and frank statement of a statesman. They are not as clear, concise and powerful, either, as the views of his colleague (Mr. Macdonald, Kingston City), who comes from down by the sea. He gave a frank statement and, as I understood it, he expressed himself bluntly with regard to the question of conscription. We have three more ministers, hon. gentlemen from the province of Quebec. There we have a review of the situation; there we have a picture of the Liberal party in action. So much for the treasury benches; so much for the picture of the Liberal party in action.

Then we had the speech this afternoon of the hon. member for Wellington South, and other speeches mostly from hon. members from Quebec. We had one from the hon. member for Humboldt (Mr. Fleming), and a few from hon. gentlemen from other parts of the country who were not quite sure which way they ought to jump.