

heavy outlay for military purposes. We have not yet emerged from the crisis borne of the war and our commitments resulting from our participation in the conflict of 1914-1918 now exceed \$4,600,000,000.

I do not approve the amendment proposed by my hon. colleague from Vancouver North (Mr. MacNeil), because part of it censures the government concerning its social legislation; and I do not hesitate to state that in that field the country never had a man with a better understanding of the interests of the labour class than my hon. colleague the Minister of Labour (Mr. Rogers) whose direct action in connection with the labour legislation adopted by this house has proven extremely helpful in the realm of relations between employers and employees. On the other hand, I wish to state that I shall vote against the increased military appropriations because I am convinced our country owes it to itself to direct its efforts into other channels of greater benefit to the Canadian community to which we have the honour to belong.

Mr. W. F. KUHL (Jasper-Edson): Mr. Speaker, since a great deal has already been said on the subject of war and peace, I desire to say only sufficient to indicate my stand on the amendment. War is a disease, though not an incurable one. It is not a cause; it is an effect. Disease cannot be cured without removing the cause; neither can war be eliminated without removing the cause.

Minor causes of war have been discussed a great deal in the house, but in my opinion the major cause has not. At page 103 of the evidence taken before the agriculture committee of the legislature of Alberta, Major Douglas states what he believes to be the major cause of crime. I agree with him when he says:

There is no question that at the present time practically ninety per cent of the crime in the world is directly due to the financial system.

In my opinion war is the greatest crime. It is nothing less than legalized murder.

What the world has yet to realize is that war arises not because of the natural antipathy of races but because of a defective money system in each country. Nothing but a change in the financial system can save this or any other country from destruction. In my opinion Canada has done nothing by way of eliminating the major cause of war. This defective money system makes it necessary each year that more and more of each nation's products shall be shipped abroad and sold in foreign markets. The only reason most of these products cannot be bought at home

is that people have not enough money with which to buy them. Since all nations have become highly industrialized, the world has become full of sellers and empty of buyers.

The world of to-day is just like a great stock-market. Brokers representing Canada, the United States, England, France, Russia, Germany and other countries are clamouring for buyers, and failing to find them. But unlike brokers in ordinary industrial life, nations can do things to shut out undesirable sellers. They can enact tariffs, and impose embargoes, quotas and trade restrictions of various kinds. When this is done, national antipathy, mutual distrust, jealousy of favoured nations and, finally, suspicions arise. Presently the war munitions racketeer, who knows no country and who plies his abominable trade in every country, appears upon the scene. He thrives upon distrust and suspicion, and fosters international hatred. In recent years his fiendish trade has been carried on with all the cunning efficiency of the devil himself.

I should like to quote part of an article written by Senator Gerald P. Nye of North Dakota, chairman of the senate munitions lobby investigating committee, to indicate how the munitions makers ply their nefarious schemes. The senator says this:

An investigation of the arms question without treading upon official and semi-official toes would be no investigation at all. Of necessity we have had to deal with the secret courses pursued by the manufacturers and sellers of instruments of war. For years these makers and their salesmen have been weaving their way into governments, deceiving, frightening, corrupting, as their welfare and profit dictated.

Because of the manner in which they have woven themselves into the very fabric of governments, the industry has won a status of sacredness and secrecy which has enlarged its opportunity to thrive in a way to return great profit to its owners. Rackets thrive best when nourished by dark secrecy, and when governments lend hands to the racketeers the sky is the limit as far as the flow of profits and blood money is concerned.

I repeat that there is no racket to compare with that of the sale of munitions of war. Our government has fought, at great cost, the beer, liquor, white slave, dope and kidnap rackets.

The munitions racket, one whose victims is all civilization, has governments as its partners, unconsciously on the part of some of the governments perhaps. Doubly difficult, then, becomes the task of destroying or controlling the racket, a racket wearing the cloak of respectability by reason of its association with and in governments.

That such a partnership exists is one of the clear conclusions growing out of this present investigation. It must therefore be apparent that nothing short of wide and sweeping disclosures of the truth will ever waken the world to a degree that will win reform to check the mad race now on toward more war.