

That beautiful and gifted lady from China, Madame Chiang Kai-shek, who visited this capital on June 16, 1943, declared:

The accumulated heroism of your commandos, the large amount of foodstuffs and munitions which your country has sent to England, the manner in which you have utilized your air bases for training of Allied effort, and the fact that Canada has produced more for the war effort per capita than any other member of the United Nations, are indicative of Canada's will to victory.

Some tributes have been paid to the Prime Minister of this country. In this regard I desire to recall this paragraph from President Roosevelt's speech of February 16, 1942:

Yours are the achievements of a great nation. They require no praise from me—but they get that praise from me nevertheless. I understate the case when I say that we, in this country, contemplating what you have done and the spirit in which you have done it, are proud to be your neighbours.

And again:

Mr. King, my old friend, may I through you thank the people of Canada for their hospitality to all of us. Your course and mine have run so closely and affectionately during these many long years that this meeting adds another link to that chain.

Prime Minister Churchill on March 8, 1943, paid this tribute to our Chief Executive:

In the darkest days, Canada, under your leadership, remained confident and true. Now the days are brighter, and when victory is won you will be able to look back with just pride upon a record surpassed by none.

Having this testimony before us, I think honourable members will agree with me that we have every reason to be gratified with Canada's war effort and with the administration of that war effort up to the present time.

I pass now to the subject of inflation and price control. In this connection I desire to commend the Minister of Finance and the Chairman of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board for the work they have done. I consider it the duty of each one of us to assist in maintaining the price ceiling. I believe that inflation hits the farming community harder than any other class. Invariably in time of depression prices of farm commodities are the first to go down and the last to rise. To ensure economic stability for agriculture, the Speech from the Throne declares that provision will be made for a price floor for staple farm products. I am confident that this will assist the farmer over the period of falling prices at the conclusion of the war. It will be recalled that there was an alarming period of that kind at the close of the last war.

To maintain the price ceiling we have had to put up with certain quotas and restrictions. Our wartime experience in this respect may well cause us to wonder what would be the

condition in this country if our C.C.F. friends were ever able to give effect to their so-called planned economy. The few quotas and restrictions of to-day would sink into insignificance compared with the full measure of control which they would put into effect.

Our farmers, like the members of our fighting forces and the workers in our munition factories and shipyards, are doing a grand job on the production line, even though handicapped by insufficient help and lack of implements.

Family allowances would greatly benefit large families, but of course the maximum payable to any family should be limited. This is as it should be. Government relief distributed in Saskatchewan during the drought period had a demoralizing effect on not only the recipient, but on the whole populace. A floor under the prices of farm products, coupled with family allowances, would obviate the necessity of again dispensing direct Government relief.

Reduction of tariffs and removal of restrictions on the free flow of trade would cheapen our cost of production and ensure us wider export markets.

Our first and all-important duty of the moment is to our armed forces. When the war is won, our duty and responsibility to those who have been in the front line does not terminate, but rather takes on new significance. To this end it is proposed to establish three new departments of Government:

1. A Department of Veterans' Affairs, to have charge of the rehabilitation and re-establishment of members of the armed forces, and the administration of veterans' pensions and allowances.

We should profit from the experience gained in dealing with these matters following the last war.

2. A Department of Reconstruction, to promote and co-ordinate planning for national development and post-war employment.

The scope given here need only be measured by our ability to pay.

3. A Department of Social Welfare, to organize and to assist in administering activities of the Federal Government in the fields of health and social insurance.

The health of our people is a matter of prime importance to all, and every effort should be made to improve and safeguard it.

Post-war planning falls into three broad fields. First, preparation for the demobilization, rehabilitation and re-establishment in civil life of the men and women in the armed forces; second, reconversion of the economic life of the nation from a wartime to a peacetime basis, and its reconstruction in a manner which will provide opportunities for useful