

obtained following the last war. I remember the cases of many workmen who had paid their all into their little homes, and then, after a period of unemployment, became sick and died or their wives died, their families became scattered and their homes were lost. The present Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) has a long connection with sane labour organization; he never was an agitator. I remember that when he was in this house before, he invariably talked from a sane point of view on behalf of labour; and I have always tried to do the same.

I trust that these fundamentals will be before every hon. member in considering this bill, so that, after the present war, the humble labouring man will have, what he has not had as long as I have known him, constant employment, fair wages, and reasonable working conditions—all of which are his just due. I speak from experience. I have been out of work; I know what it means. The average working man is, after all, the best buyer, the best consumer, because God usually blesses him with a large family. When he is not able to buy, the purchasing power of the country goes down and down. If he is thrown out of work for any length of time—as happened after the last war, during the depression—he becomes a charge on his family, his friends, or his relations, and loses all he has. I hope that the minister, in this and other legislation, will see to it that these conditions do not recur, otherwise the war will have been fought in vain.

Mr. REID: Do not forget the workman's old age.

Mr. MacNICOL: I said a few moments ago that I would suggest some other things for the minister to do in this bill, because men have to be provided jobs—that is the purpose of the bill. All of them cannot be reemployed in industry in any reasonable length of time I know; I have been through it. A number of industries will close their doors when the war is over. All the large munition plants will cease operations unless they have other demands to meet. Those old line industries which have transferred their activities from their own products to the making of war material will require some time to reestablish their plants on the former basis. In the meantime there will be an interim for which provision must be made.

According to what I have read, the United States department of labour proposes to set aside this year \$550,000,000 for after-war rehabilitation in just one line, the building of power dams and plants in the western states. Many individual states are also making preparations. Either Iowa, Kansas or Nebraska, I am not sure which, is appropriat-

[Mr. MacNicol.]

ing from three to four million dollars a year for after-war rehabilitation. I suggest to the minister that he double up his good strong hand and come out boldly for full after-war rehabilitation. The Prime Minister, having himself administered that department, is perhaps more inclined to be sympathetic to its needs than are some ministers who are less familiar with labour, so the minister should be able to count upon his support in asking that a large annual vote be placed aside until the war is over, in order that the department responsible for seeing that every man who wants work shall have work will be able to discharge his fundamental duty. If in the United States they are doing it, we can do it here. There is ample opportunity.

After my last trip to Germany, a trip which thoroughly convinced me that war was in the offing, I speeded up my travelling across Canada until to-day, I believe, I have covered the greater part of the dominion south of the 58th parallel and much of it between the 58th and the 63rd parallels. I know that no other country in the world has such resources as we have, resources lying wide open for development. Development is necessary to keep men employed; and once they obtain their wages they circulate those wages.

I never could see why men should not be provided with employment by the government. I remember that some years ago the previous government brought in a bill to vote \$20,000,000 for the alleviation of unemployment. The amount was a mere bagatelle. Had the government brought in a bill to spend \$100,000,000, it would have got through this house just as easily as the smaller sum, and the result might well have been to have started a programme of rehabilitation which would have prevented the depression. I say to the minister, do likewise; ask for large sums of money. It may keep you in power for years and years. I am not particularly interested in whether I am on this side of the house or the other side. But I am and always have been interested, since I was a young man, in providing jobs for men, and I have provided or assisted in providing many jobs for men. There is nothing which delights one's heart more than to be able to do that. Our main duty here is to provide jobs. It matters little whether we are on one side of the chamber or the other, but it does matter that men and women shall have employment for reasonable hours and at reasonable wages, so that they may adequately take care of their wives and families.

During the last war the nations of Europe, the United States and ourselves spent a hundred billion dollars in destroying each other and destroying the treasure of the ages.