

During February we have, as hon. members know, been conducting a special campaign to increase the sale of these certificates to at least \$10,000,000 a month and to ensure that at least 2,000,000 Canadians will pledge themselves to become regular war savers for the duration of the war. I now feel it safe for me to say that we expect not only to reach but to exceed that objective, possibly by a substantial amount.

During the first twenty-two days of the month applications amounting to \$7,115,556 have been received. This total reflects only to a slight extent applications that result from payroll savings and bank pledges. As the house will realize, it is on these two phases of the programme that we have been placing primary reliance, and, while we shall not have the complete figures until after the end of the month, the reports already received from the thousands of voluntary committees and workers throughout the country indicate that the response to our campaign will be far greater than we expected.

The enthusiastic response of employers and employees to the payroll savings plan as a means of regular war saving is indicated by the fact that honour roll certificates have already been issued to 915 companies and other firms. These honour roll certificates are issued to any firm whose employees are participating in the plan to the extent of at least seventy-five per cent, and our national war savings committee advise me that they have yet to hear from the first firm to report that it has not yet been able to or is not likely to be able to secure at least a seventy-five per cent participation. Hon. members will already have noted from the press that quite a substantial number of firms are actually reporting one hundred per cent participation.

Before taking my seat I wish to pay tribute to the many thousands of volunteer workers throughout the country who by weeks of hard work and effective organization have made these results possible, and to express to them my confidence that in this concluding week of the present intensive phase of the war savings campaign they will be able to report the rolling-in of applications in a volume that will more than justify all the thought and energy which they have put into the campaign.

Mr. LOCKHART: Would it be possible to amplify that wonderful result achieved by voluntary workers by having the census made by voluntary workers, thereby saving the country a lot of money?

Mr. MacNICOL: No applause from the other side.

SUPPLY

THE WAR—PRESENT POSITION—CONTINUATION
OF DEBATE ON MOTION OF THE
MINISTER OF FINANCE

The house resumed from Monday, February 17, consideration of the motion of Mr. Ilsley for committee of supply.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, on Monday last when the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) moved that the house go into committee of supply, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) took occasion to deliver to the house a very carefully prepared speech dealing with a variety of important matters, including a review of the war situation since December 2 last, when he gave his last statement on the European situation.

The speech, in part at least, was designed to afford a suitable background, as he put it, against which to consider external affairs and also the 1941-42 war appropriation bill, the resolution preceding which was introduced by the Minister of Finance on Tuesday last and debated on subsequent days of last week.

In the course of his remarks the Prime Minister stated that "it is not possible to divorce war enactments and the foreign policy on which they are necessarily based". That, of course, is a truism and would be wholly applicable if our war enactments were in fact and in truth based on a sound, well-thought-out master war plan. But, in view of the fact, as I stated on Wednesday last, that Canada has never had and has not now a sound and well-thought-out master plan for our war effort, the truth of this statement is therefore in this instance at least open to question.

However that may be, I do not for the moment desire to pursue that line of thought, and having listened attentively to and having since read with some care the Prime Minister's statement I am in agreement with much that he said in the early part of his remarks with respect to the operations in the various theatres of war—in Europe, Africa, and the far east—and may I pause here to say, with regard to the gravity of the situation upon which the Prime Minister laid great stress during the course of his remarks.

The African campaign has thrilled us all. We have been delighted to read and hear of the spectacular victories which have been achieved by the British and Australian forces over the enemy in Egypt and adjacent territory. We have been especially proud of the part played by the armed forces from the sister dominion of Australia. The infantry from that dominion and their gallant airmen