

products. If all the people had all the foods which they really require, the full output of agricultural production would be used up. If the farmers of a country are prosperous, all others share in that prosperity. Here is an opportunity to do some of these things which will bring contentment, permanency and attractiveness to the people of this country.

We must look to the great to-morrows. For centuries yet to come future generations will look back upon the efforts and accomplishments of the people of this generation, and we shall be judged by posterity by the efforts we put forth and by what we accomplish now. This is not only a time of trial but a time of great opportunity. Few generations have had the opportunity which is offered to the people of this generation, an opportunity to shield that precious heritage which has been built up by long struggles and which is now threatened with destruction, an opportunity to build, upon the foundations which have been laid, a more noble edifice.

Mr. ROBERT FAIR (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, let me first of all join with the hon. member who has just taken his seat, (Mr. Gershaw), in extending congratulations to the mover (Mr. Harris, Grey-Bruce) and the seconder (Mr. Hallé) of the address, and by so doing to pay a tribute to all the fighting forces of Canada. It has not been my custom in the past to extend these congratulations, but on this occasion I am very glad to do it because I realize, as all the rest of us here and throughout Canada must realize, that those in the fighting forces are giving everything they have in the fight for the preservation of what we in Canada wish to keep. I cannot say that I am satisfied with everything we have, but it is much better than people in other lands have, and it is our duty to do everything possible to bring to a successful and speedy conclusion the fight that is now in progress.

We have, as has been pointed out on several occasions, a number of small inconveniences to put up with, and among them is rationing. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Hsley) and the chairman of the wartime prices and trade board could not have been very active when the speech from the throne was being written, because certainly in that document there does not seem to have been any rationing of words, and it is evident that a number of good things which might have been included in it have been omitted.

There is in the speech from the throne only a brief reference to agriculture. We had better all understand that without food we cannot win the war or secure a successful peace. Food

is one of the first essentials. I realize, of course, that other things are necessary too, but food is one of the first things, because if we cannot feed our soldiers and our factory workers and those on the other side of the Atlantic whom we have been feeding for the last few years, they will not be in proper physical condition to fight or to manufacture the munitions of war. Therefore, I believe that more attention should have been paid in the speech to the subject of agriculture. I am not particularly surprised to find the references to this subject so meagre, because agriculture has been neglected longer than the period of time I have been in Canada, which is almost thirty years now. Around election time all across Canada farmers are patted on the back and told what good fellows they are; at conventions and similar gatherings members of this house and others hand out bouquets; but when it comes to providing the dollars for the products the farmers raise, we find a number of these good people absent. I am sorry that this condition exists, and I hope something will be done in the very near future to have it remedied.

One short paragraph of the speech from the throne says:

A joint committee representative of the Departments of Agriculture of Canada and the United States has been agreed upon to co-ordinate the efforts of the two countries in the production of food for the united nations.

We all realize that Canada and the United States are geographically married and that there is no possibility of a congressional or house of commons divorce; and I do not see any reason why we on the Canadian side of the border should not enjoy the fruits of our labours to the same extent as those do who are south of the line.

On Friday last, January 29, the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. MacKinnon) announced the joint agricultural policy for himself and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner). If we look back just one year we may remember the delegation which came from the three western provinces. It was not a delegation wholly of farmers; it was representative of all western business and industrial life. The delegates asked for very moderate consideration. Consideration was promised to them and, I believe, was given; but we were minus the financial consideration when the crops were harvested. The delegation asked for an initial payment of one dollar per bushel on wheat, and later they wanted to receive parity, which I believe some suggested at that time to be \$1.41. When the government's policy for the year was announced we found that a price of ninety