

them, work out means whereby plans of theirs might come to be associated or coordinated with plans the dominion government might have under way. Cooperation with provincial governments generally would be part of the work of a minister who would seek to co-ordinate matters as a whole.

Then my hon. friend the leader of the social credit party asked where the money was to come from, and said that when the time came to administer the act there would have to be intelligence in high places. I will not say anything about where I think the most intelligence will be found in the matter of finding the means essential to carry out a reconstruction programme, but my intelligence would cause me to hesitate somewhat in accepting the proposals that are made by his party to carry on government, as he says, without increasing debt or taxation. I do not think anyone could undertake sincerely to carry on government to-day without debt or without taxation. I think I added the word "increasing." If I am not mistaken my hon. friend's original statement was, "Where is the money coming from? We could have it, but without debt or without taxation." I cannot see that it is going to be possible to do any work of government without having some taxation or incurring some debt.

My purpose in speaking in answer to my hon. friend was, however, to point out that if it has been possible in this time of war for this country to raise the enormous sums which have been raised to help pay the cost of the war, running into billions of dollars, if it has been possible to raise at least half of the total cost of the war at the time of the war itself, it should be a very much easier task for the government to raise the money that will be necessary for the purpose of reconstruction. It should be easier for this reason. The money we are raising to-day is being raised unfortunately for the purposes of destruction of human life and property, and this on a colossal scale. The money that we will have to raise for purposes of reconstruction will be money that will be used for purposes of construction, used to further increase all commodities in order to satisfy human wants. Once a human want is satisfied, it seems to be the case that new wants are thereby created which will also have to be satisfied. I think it will be possible to satisfy many wants by maximum production of useful and usable commodities. It should not be difficult to obtain the money, in other words the effective demand, which will be essential, and at the same time I would hope to reduce taxation and also debt.

Just a last word to my hon. friend the leader of the opposition who has referred to the minister of this new department as a straw

boss. I prefer the term which has been used in the British parliament in reference to Lord Woolton, who has been referred to as the coach of the team. If my hon. friend ever comes to have any experience with government I think he will come more and more to realize that there should be no bosses, but that "whosoever will be chiefest shall be servant of all."

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Mackenzie King thereupon moved for leave to introduce bill No. 82, to establish a Department of Reconstruction.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPARTMENT TO DEAL WITH
THE CARE, TREATMENT, TRAINING OR
REESTABLISHMENT OF MEMBERS OF
THE ARMED FORCES

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to provide for a Department of Veterans' Affairs to replace in part the Department of Pensions and National Health and to assume the management and control of and to consolidate in such department all matters not by law assigned to any other department relating to the care, treatment, training or reestablishment of members and former members of the armed forces and other persons and all such other matters as may from time to time be assigned; and to provide further for the appointment of such officers, clerks and employees as are necessary for the proper and efficient administration of the act.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Bradette in the chair.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Chairman, hon. members will, I believe, agree that having regard to the experience we have had since the last war in dealing with veterans' affairs and realizing what the war veterans' problems are likely to be after the conclusion of the present war, the time has come when there should be established in Canada a department of veterans' affairs which will have immediate supervision, control and direction over matters of concern to the war veterans. The parliament of Canada, in recognizing an obligation of this kind, will again be giving to our armed forces an assurance that this parliament at this time has very much in mind these matters which will be of