

*Family Allowances*

deflection of payments that will have to come from other provinces to pay that province's heavier share of these subsidies. A proportionately lower revenue provider receiving a proportionately higher subsidy can scarcely make for greater unity at this stage in our national life.

It is alleged that in Ontario a larger number of families come within the income tax paying group and will, therefore, receive no benefit under this measure. I do not see any injustice there. If these people, as a result of circumstances I shall discuss in a moment, are better off financially and economically, are we to consider it an injustice when some benefit is given others who in the past have not had the same opportunities or enjoyed the same benefits, and who have not attained the same financial security? It has been said that a larger number of Ontario families are in the income tax paying class. Why? Because of super-intellectual and physical gifts? Because of racial superiority? Well, Mr. Speaker, you might believe that to be the case after listening to the hon. member for Parkdale. From his remarks you would almost think the people of this province have some special attributes.

However, if we calmly analyse the situation we see that half the province of Ontario enjoys climatic conditions which make agriculture at least forty per cent more prosperous than in the colder districts of Quebec. But that is not the main reason for the difference. The main reason is the industries which have been established in Ontario; but those industries have not grown out of thin air. They have been built by capital which came from outside this country, from England and the United States. The people of Ontario have benefited; they have found work and a better standard of living. I do not blame them for taking advantage of this outside capital that has been entrusted to their care; I am sufficiently broad-minded to make that statement. We were the vanquished and they were the victors; money came from England and was entrusted to them, and probably I would have done as they did. But no money came to the Franch-Caandians in the province of Quebec; no foreign capital has been entrusted into their care. Where would it come from? For a hundred years after 1759 no French ships could sail the St. Lawrence; no connections could be maintained with the former mother country. In all justice I must add that when connections were reestablished no money came from France. They sent their money where it would earn a greater profit, instead of sending it to this country then under British control. So that we had to live to ourselves. Whatever

[Mr. Picard.]

industries we have established; whatever financial and manufacturing firms we have set up, have been created from the toil and economy of our forefathers, and that point should be taken into account when one is considering the economic situation of Quebec as compared with that of the other provinces. There is no question of inferiority; it was simply the chance that some had to obtain foreign capital, a chance they were sufficiently clever to utilize to their own advantage, and on the other hand the fact that the French Canadian population of Quebec did not have the same chance or the same advantage.

Furthermore, even in those large industries, public utilities, railway companies and so on which have been established in the province of Quebec with capital coming from England or the United States, our people are given minor positions and are prevented from advancing. We do not want to broadcast this situation, as some of the isolationists are doing on the platforms of Quebec at the present time, but we have evidence to that effect. I will admit that for some technical positions our people may not have been qualified, because our province has not had the schools in which people may be trained for these positions, but the progress made during the war is proof of my statement that our people can work as well as any others; that when they are given a chance they can better their conditions, working well for the country and helping themselves at the same time. We did not have that chance previously because capital was not entrusted to our people in our province to the extent that it was sent into the province of Ontario, out the situation has changed with the setting up of the many war plants that now operate in the province of Quebec. For some time last year I was with the empire parliamentary association, and for another period of time I sat on the war expenditures committee. In both capacities I had an opportunity to visit shipbuilding and munition plants in Montreal; big gun factories and shipbuilding plants in Sorel; shipbuilding plants in Levis and in Lauzon; small arms ammunition factories and shipbuilding plants in Quebec, and the aluminum plant at Arvida. All these plants were manned by people of my own racial group. They are doing well, occupying positions of importance and responsibility, and with their increased salaries they have bettered their conditions in every way. Therefore that myth of the superiority of the worker of another province, because he is of another race, has vanished with the improved opportunities that have come to the people of Quebec since the beginning of the war. Give any Canadian equal opportunity in industry anywhere, and very