

office, is a scarcely veiled antagonism, tempered only by fear of the consequences which may come as a result of their actions. I have already said that we must give consideration to more than a measure which is designed to meet certain conditions that may exist. I believe that we should pay some attention to those conditions which we may wish to be the type of conditions which we shall want to see prevail at that time.

I do not believe that a series of measures, which I may call patches, are going to meet satisfactorily the conditions which are bound to prevail after the war. I feel that possibly our attention is directed toward, let us say, palliatives or makeshift measures to meet a situation only for the moment. We must go deeper. We should take upon ourselves the responsibility and the duty of seeing to it that when the period of demobilization comes, we shall shift from a war-time to a peacetime basis. We must concentrate, not upon the shutting down of industry but upon the expansion of industry, so that in place of the production of machines of war for destructive purposes we shall revert to the production of those things required by the civilians of the country—something which we failed to do before the outbreak of the war, but something which we must not fail to do after the war.

Someone stated earlier to-day that no satisfactory provision is being made to take care of many of those who found themselves unemployed at the time the war broke out. Last night the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. MacNicol) stated that many unemployed men joined the services in 1939 and during the months that followed. He said something to this effect: "I do not want you to believe that I think they joined because they were out of work." Well, we know all too well—and we are not casting any reflection upon their patriotism when we say this—that many of them did join because of the fact that they were unemployed.

In my humble judgment a very heavy responsibility rests upon us all. I believe that even though we did not see fit prior to 1939 to give to these young men of ours the consideration which was their right, a consideration which we, living in a vast country with such untold wealth, were capable of giving them, it is not a moment too late for us to realize that the very least we can do for them is to say to them that when this war is over they shall not have to return to those conditions of degradation in which they found themselves before the war.

I do not want to leave the impression that I am not aware and appreciative of the patriotism of our boys serving in the army, the air force or the navy; but when they come

to me and say, "We are the heroes of to-day, but what were we yesterday and what are we going to be to-morrow?" it gives one cause for thought. Prior to 1939 we used the excuse day in and day out, week in and week out, that for various reasons which we enumerated, the affairs of this country could not possibly be adjusted to absorb the unemployed and to give at least a square deal to all. Those men in uniform now recall that when war broke out there was no question of the inability of the government to give them employment. The argument advanced at that time that we could not possibly finance any reestablishment programme simply will not hold when this war is over. Having seen millions and even billions go for destruction, they are certainly going to demand that, not perhaps equal amounts of money, but large amounts at any rate, be made available for construction.

This is going to require that we have a plan, an over-all plan, of reconstruction and reestablishment. Even though it is intimated by the Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. Mackenzie) that the government have enacted about six orders in council dealing with various classes of people who may be faced with difficulties, I do not consider that this is going to solve the over-all problem with which we shall be confronted after the war. Each of these proposals may have its place in a broad, all-embracing plan. There may be such a plan; it may be that I am criticizing too soon, but we can only speak on the basis of the information we have.

When I talk of a plan I have in mind that we have a land, shall I say slightly in excess of three million square miles in area, with a population of less than twelve million people, with broad expanses of countryside yet unsettled and vast potential resources. In view of that, surely it is no exaggeration to say that there is no logical excuse for a government claiming inability to set up a plan for properly taking care of our people.

If the government cannot do it, then I shall have to ask why they cannot? Is there some force over the government, some sinister influence behind the government? If so, I would say it is the duty of the government to indicate who and what those sinister forces are.

I fear the situation when this war is over. On the one hand we are going to have vastly expanded industrial equipment, a greater ability to produce and satisfy the needs of our people than we had before the war, and on the other, a colossal financial debt resting upon Canada. I fear that the government, realizing the physical ability of the country to support a plan, will be told by the forces on the other side of the ledger that inasmuch