

which belong to the crown. The Bouchard munitions factory, operated by the D.I.L. during the war and now temporarily devoted to the needs of the army and the War Assets Corporation, is located in my riding. No final decision seems to have been reached concerning its permanent function. I am too well acquainted with the Minister of Reconstruction (Mr. Howe) to think that he would drop such an establishment as the Bouchard plant built at a cost of some \$20 millions.

The Saint Jerome army camp will soon close down, and the municipality is interested in purchasing this property for industrial purposes. The minister has already viewed the request sympathetically, and for this, he deserves the highest commendation.

Now that the armed conflict has ended, the government should pay municipal taxes on state-owned wartime buildings. Since the outbreak of hostilities, the government has not expended any money in that direction. I ought to point out here that the municipalities where war plants were built played host to a surplus population of which a large majority has now settled permanently within their precincts. The municipalities were required to incur large capital expenditures and to expand especially their water and sewer systems. For this reason, they should receive grants which would be used to improve their municipal services. Such works are still needed; small towns, owing to an increase in population due solely to the war, were compelled to incur large expenditures in order to cope with new and unforeseen conditions.

I am of the opinion that the rents charged by Wartime Housing are too high and as war plants are now closed down, tenants can no longer pay such high rents for their houses. The government should soon announce its policy in regard to the purpose for which such residential centres will be used. Will the municipalities have a priority if the government decides to sell them? Will the government retain them? Will those houses be sold to private parties? It would be interesting to have answers to those questions.

Large areas of land were expropriated for the construction of war plants and especially for their protection. They are no longer in use and represent an idle capital. Would it not be advisable for the Allied War Supplies Corporation to make a survey of all such idle lands to ascertain whether it would not be in order to return them to their former owners?

[Mr. L. Bertrand.]

During the war, the government resorted to publicity in the press, both daily and weekly, to explain the laws and orders by summing them up. That was money well spent.

The war is over, but the laws are still as numerous. Post-war has imposed upon the government, and even upon parliament, very important decisions. Canada belongs to every international organization, but the people are not aware of their aims or purposes. During the war, the government informed the population by means of advertisements. Those of the wartime prices and trade board, for instance, were unique in this respect. All those advertisements served as information and guide for millions of readers. The newspaper is the best means of information. Our wartime information service should now become our peacetime information service. Such an organization could well explain the deeds of the nation and the laws of parliament by means of well-worded publicity, throughout the country, with the help of newspapers which are the best medium for that purpose. It has been proven that publicity is beneficial, even for a government. We should keep up the good work. I wish to make clearly known my position regarding the controversial question of a Canadian flag. I favour a flag, which will be entirely Canadian, that is a flag that will not borrow anything from the emblem of another country, no matter which one.

I feel that the matter should not be discussed from the standpoint of race, origin or history, but solely on the chief consideration that Canada, which has become a nation and is so recognized throughout the world, should have a flag of its own, symbolizing the ideals of all its component groups. A flag is chosen not for one year, but for centuries. I could never, as a member of this parliament, accept a flag of the presence thereon on account of a particular emblem, would leave upon the freedom I enjoy as a Canadian citizen the least trace of colonialism, and which would compel me to have even a partial liking for a symbol not fully consonant with the pride I have for my country.

Such are the remarks I wished to make. They indicate my views on the matters I have touched lightly. The budget announces some relief for the taxpayers after January 1st, 1947. Let us hope that the next budget will go farther in that respect. I should have hoped that more would be done for this year. I have received from my constituency hundreds of cards from people who claim that no tax should be levied on incomes lower than \$3,000.