

very conscious of the difficult position in which I have been placed by that distinguished orator from our neighbouring province who has just spoken. I can well understand how one so eloquent, not only in his own language, but also in English, should have acquired that title of distinguished orator. Difficult as my task may be, still, with your leave, I will set myself to it.

I intend to deal briefly with some of the points which appear in the Speech from the Throne. May I at the outset refer to the situation that confronted us when we last met here. You will recall that there was then a heavy burden upon us. The toppling of European countries, one after the other, before the might of Hitler, cut across our deliberations and beset our every thought and action; and at adjournment in August we were confronted with the fact that Britain was standing alone, waiting for the invasion of her shores and preparing to meet that invasion. But we know the magnificent story of the resistance she has offered to the enemy since that time. So to-day, in the light of that and other things which have happened, I say that the way to victory is less dark, the pattern of victory less obscure. The way may still be long and the task may take our last ounce of effort, but, however prolonged and exhausting it may be, we, in common with the British people, have set ourselves to it. We have set ourselves to it with all our intellect and all our industry and all our man-power, and we will not cease from that task until those forces of evil that are abroad in the world have been destroyed and the blight on our civilization has been completely removed.

Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. HAYDEN: To-day in Canada our industry is vying with that of the English people. Our whole industrial life is tuning up to an ever-increasing scale of production of war materials. The Government is entitled to great praise for the manner in which the industrial activities of the country have been organized. And I think in particular it has been fortunate for Canada that we have had as the Minister in charge the Hon. Mr. Howe, whose leadership and direction have given shape to a gigantic industrial effort.

In passing may I briefly refer to the fact that on land, on sea and in the air we have made considerable progress since the Senate adjourned. Our Navy has proven its real worth, and its great expansion since the outbreak of war has enabled it to render effective service in our common necessity. In the air our Commonwealth Air Training Plan

has proceeded with remarkable speed. Our land forces are also being rapidly developed, in Canada, Britain and other places. Truly, considerable progress has been made in a military sense.

But to-night I intend rather to deal more particularly with that part of the Speech from the Throne which calls for "the fullest consideration . . . of national problems which war has served to intensify or create." Our war effort, I recognize, is without doubt the greatest single problem confronting Parliament and the people of Canada at the present time. However, certain problems which have been intensified or created by the war must be faced and dealt with at this time unless our war effort is to be hampered or even bogged down.

I may be venturing on strange ground when I talk about wheat, but I am going to have a try at it. It is a very great problem for us just now. The war has closed markets that might have survived the world-wide wave of economic nationalism. To state the figures as to wheat is to state the problem. At present we have approximately 850,000,000 bushels of wheat. Our own domestic requirements would take care of about 128,000,000 bushels, and we have storage facilities for about 425,000,000 bushels. We are taxing the capacity of our public storage facilities and also of the farmers' temporary storage facilities. So the problem has reached the acute stage. How long can we go on piling up an annual surplus of wheat in the expectation of a market after the war?

I say the wheat situation at this time is a very serious one for Canada. I do not think we have solved the problem by saying, "Yes, it is a serious situation, and something must be done about it." Nor do we help the farmer by telling him to grow less wheat, to restrict his acreage. What else can he grow that would give him purchasing power? If the Western farmer were to grow for his own needs only, then his purchasing power would be so lessened that all the East and industrial Canada would suffer in consequence. And if he were to grow other agricultural products he would come directly into competition with the agriculture of the East. That is not desirable, either, for whatever we do we must not put the East and West economy out of balance by decreasing the farmer's purchasing power or by placing him in competition with Eastern producers. Yet we are faced with the fact of a growing wheat surplus.

The Government embarked on considerable expenditures to pay for the wheat and its storage, although no market is in sight.