

try will not share the government's satisfaction expressed in the words in the speech from the throne:

A considerable measure of social security has already been provided.

Further, may I say that if the government really means business in this field, the least it could have done would be to offer legislation increasing the amount of the old age pension. I mention also the blind, the veterans of the last war, and widows of veterans of the last war. I understand that those discharged from the armed forces now, after one month, if still unemployed, go on unemployment benefits of \$9 a week for single men, \$13 for married men. This is not good enough for the defenders of our right to build a democracy. And why the discrimination against women in our armed forces? After one month a discharged unemployed woman goes on benefits not exceeding \$6 a week.

Coming back to the matter of old age pensions, I understand that two provinces, British Columbia and Alberta, have made provision to pay \$25 a month in certain cases. In Manitoba we have been pressing the case of our old people for all we are worth. The Winnipeg city council has urged the federal government and the Manitoba provincial government to raise the amount. I note that the Manitoba government proposes to increase the pension payable in that province by \$1.25 a month. Apparently that government dares to hope that this government will provide an additional \$3.75 to make a total of \$25 a month. That would not be enough, but surely it is the least we might have expected, and I hope, despite its non-inclusion in the speech from the throne, that we may get action along this line during the present session.

I was glad to hear the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Gershaw) express this view from the government side of the house this afternoon, but I was sorry to hear the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) say earlier in the day that nothing had been planned as yet in connection with this matter. I hope that the hon. member for Medicine Hat and others in his group will join with us in our continued effort to press for action in this matter while the house is in session.

There are other matters I must defer until later. There is the problem of housing, concerning which we in Winnipeg have been given a disgraceful run-around. I shall deal with this matter at length when the opportunity is afforded. I gather that the city of Ottawa has had an experience similar to ours in Winnipeg. On a future occasion, as the only Cooperative Commonwealth Federation mem-

[Mr. Knowles.]

ber in this house from Manitoba, I will have something to say on behalf of the farmers of that province. In the meantime, I may say that my colleagues in this group from Saskatchewan are, in my opinion, stating clearly the views of the farmers of Manitoba. Possibly before I get around to a speech on this subject, a by-election will have been held in the riding of Selkirk, now vacant in Manitoba, with the result that we may be joined by a C.C.F. member for rural Manitoba. If Mr. Bracken decides to run in Manitoba, and some other seat is opened for him, we may be joined by two C.C.F. farmer members.

In that event those of the Conservative party who argued at the Winnipeg convention that a leader should have been chosen from among the membership of this house would be vindicated. I recall that the fear was stressed there lest the disgrace of York South be repeated. It may be that they were right.

In closing may I say that I have not indulged in some of the niceties and platitudes with which the debates in this house seem to abound. I do wish, however, to express my appreciation of the cordial welcome that has been extended to me by hon. members whom it has been my privilege to meet. Coming as I do from a much smaller body, the Winnipeg city council, where one gets to know everyone, I am struck with the large number who are here and how difficult it is to get to know everyone. Yet I hope that it may be possible for me to get to know as friends as many as possible of the members of this house even though on the floor of the house we may differ sharply in the views that we present.

I may say finally that I feel that I have been sent here on serious business. I represent a people who want to play their full part in winning the war. Toward that end they insist on full production and on the acceptance of labour into full participation in the war effort. They want a new attitude toward the workers of Canada in the Department of Labour. They want a new minister of labour and a new labour policy. They want some evidence now of a better Canada after the war is over. If social insurance is the best that can be offered by the present government, they want that now, but the people of the constituency I represent insist that from there we must move on to the full realization of social democracy and social justice. In short, Mr. Speaker, the people whom I represent want this parliament to get on with the job of winning the war and winning the peace.