

have suggested that Research Enterprises Limited might be used as a permanent arsenal in Canada for the production of scientific equipment for the armed forces. They have suggested that Research Enterprises Limited might be used as a pilot plant under the direction of the national research council. The articles which they think could be produced at Research Enterprises Limited and so maintain employment are plastics, household appliances of various types, surveying instruments, scientific apparatus and optical instruments which could be used by Canadian schools and colleges, an all Canadian aeroplane engine, light passenger aircraft, prefabricated houses, motor cycles, business machines, and so on. But the government has not yet made up its mind on what it is going to do with this plant, and so we find the team of scientists and technicians and artisans which we have built is now being broken up. Where there were seven thousand men, about a year ago I think, there are now only twenty-four hundred, and it is possible that others are leaving every day.

In Research Enterprises Limited in Toronto we have a plant for the production of optical glass and instruments which I think takes second place to no other plant in the world. Canada has the world as its oyster in this field of production were we to carry on the industry. It is true that were we to continue production we would enter into competition with a certain notorious cartel. Once upon a time it was the Zeiss Optical company in Germany. Now Zeiss is pretty well broken up and Bausch and Lomb are trying to corral the market. I do not think the government should find it unduly difficult if we are going to enter competition with monopoly, in view of the frequent statements they have made about the evil, and indeed the iniquitous part which monopolies play in our life. Not only do we suggest that, but the suggestion has been made by much more disinterested sources to the minister and his department.

A year and a half ago Professor E. L. Burton, who is the head of the department of physics of the university of Toronto, asked that Research Enterprises Limited be continued. He asked that a year and a half ago, and yet the department does not know what its plans are or what its intentions will be. I think Professor Burton was well entitled to be the man to make such a request. He was the one who in the early days of this war saw the vital necessity of radio location. He tried to sell the Department of National Defence on the idea, but that department thought we were still fighting the last war and

turned it down. Professor Burton wanted to start classes in radio location. He wanted to train young Canadians, but he got no help from the government. Being a university professor, and therefore not one with too much remuneration, he was unable to finance and carry on the classes himself. But in Toronto there was a group of public-spirited men from one of the Kiwanis clubs who came to his aid and who enabled him to start these classes which rounded eventually to the benefit of this country.

None of us is asking or even expecting that the high rate of war output which was maintained in this branch be continued indefinitely in the future. We do not think for one moment that can be done. What we do say is this, there are other lines which can be taken up. I should like to suggest some of the things which could be manufactured in that plant. They are measuring instruments, cameras and photographic equipment, motion-picture projectors and high-class hearing aids. Television could be developed, and surveying instruments could be produced, along with automobile and aero instruments, medical and dental equipment, electronic equipment, control instruments, electrical and radio test equipment, and commercial radio and F.M. sets.

There, again, in the field of commercial radio, if we do go into production we are going into competition with what is a cartel or a monopoly. To-day we heard high tribute paid to radar. We do not know just yet how important a part radar will play in our lives. It may yet make the Hudson bay route a feasible proposition. Certainly it will be installed in every ship on any of the seven seas. Certainly it will be used in every aeroplane. Eventually, with the use of radar, we can expect that the day will come when aircraft will land with all the precision we associate with the movement of railway trains to-day. And even beyond that, it has been suggested that this great invention, which is still in its early stages, may prove a boon and a blessing to the blind. That is a field which has yet to be explored.

I know it is a cliché to say that we are living in a scientific age, but a cliché can still contain truth. In my view the government to-day lags behind science. We are told by the government that it does not know what it will do. I suggest that it does know, at least to some degree.

The charge has been made that there has been destruction of certain scientific equipment at that plant, equipment connected with