

will, by the advisory council set up under the bill, a board which will have very large powers. It will not be subject to parliamentary control, and not even to ministerial control.

I think that is one of the weaknesses of the bill. What supervision has parliament, which will have to vote the money, over the authority of this board in peace time? I put that query to the minister and he may answer it when he comes to the appropriate section. We have in war time delegated authority to boards and commissions that are not responsible to parliament. We have done so under the theory that this is necessary for the effective prosecution of the war. I suggest that we cannot apply that policy to peace time and vacate the authority of parliament; yet, as I have said perhaps twice before, I have given considerable thought to this bill and to the provisions of it, and having at heart the objective which the bill was intended to reach, I must confess to the minister that I do not know that anything could have been done but to introduce this bill. I do not pretend to be dogmatic about the matter. I do not pretend to know enough about the science of economics to say that another and more complete plan could have been brought before parliament; therefore I did not oppose this bill in any way. I am sympathetic to the bill, and I do not think we ought to be chastised because we are critical of certain specific methods that are to be adopted when we all want to see something accomplished along the lines that have been indicated in the debate.

I was very much interested in the figures which the minister gave this morning. If they showed anything it was this, that in what we call the transitional period there is not going to be very much danger of a sharp decline in agricultural products. That is my recollection of what happened after the last war. What we have to fear in this country more than anything else is that there may be a period of inflation after certain controls are removed which, I think, the people will clamour to have removed; that there will be a period of inflation such as we had from 1925 to 1929, a period of inflation that was absolutely uncontrolled in Canada, and I do not think it could have been controlled, because of conditions in the United States.

Mr. WRIGHT: I do not think there was any inflation so far as agricultural products were concerned.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): No; I did not say there was inflation with regard to agricultural products. The inflation I am refer-

ring to was inflation in the stock market which had its reflection on every part of the economy of the whole continent. That is the thing that I am afraid of more than anything else, and that is the thing we ought to keep our eye on. I have a feeling that in what we term the transitional period, which will be from the cessation of hostilities until, we will say, demobilization is completed—

Mr. GARDINER: Oh, longer than that.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): It may be. I hope that demobilization will not be carried out in as hasty a manner as it was after the last war, due, I think, largely to the desire of the men in the armed forces to get out of uniform under any consideration. That, I believe, is quite true—

Mr. MITCHELL: Will they not feel the same way this time?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I daresay they will, and that is the biggest problem that the government will have to meet. There will be, of course, the intense desire on the part of the men who are at present in uniform to get back home and be done with this cruel business once and for all, to return and become reestablished in civil life; and yet I hope that the period will not be rushed. I hope that wise counsel will prevail and that a substantial time will intervene between the cessation of hostilities and total demobilization. I have no idea how long that would be; it may be one year, two years, three years or four years. I do not think it could run beyond two and a half years. When these men get back into civil life and production of consumer goods has been started in a big way, I think this country is going to have good times, and I believe agricultural produce will be in great demand. I fancy, if there is anything in Europe with which to buy our commodities we shall have a fine export market. I am just a little bit afraid that the impoverished nations of Europe will not be able to buy the produce of our farms. I am just afraid that the starving population of Germany that must live if they are to survive at all by producing those goods which they can produce and exporting to this country—

Mr. MITCHELL: The same for Great Britain.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Well, I am just taking Germany as an example because she cannot survive unless she is allowed and encouraged to produce and to export. Those goods that she will produce and export are bound to come into competition with the industrial life of the new world. That is what