

Forces—Reinstatement in Employment

I remember that in England there were three million people unemployed, and it is said that in the United States there were 13,000,000 unemployed. I also remember reading that in Germany there were 7,000,000 unemployed.

It has occurred to me that the nazis could not have come into power in Germany if it had not been for the great masses of the people who were unemployed. Germany used those men to create instruments of destruction, and those men have now practically become slaves of the state. Our unemployed did retain their spiritual and political freedom, and now it should be our aim to assure them of economic security. As other speakers have said, it is not going to be an easy task. It cannot be done by the waving of a wand. The leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson) has pointed out how difficult it will be. Nevertheless we cannot shrink from the task; we must endeavour to provide security for those who are now employed.

Our men are fighting for better living conditions for all. They do not want to come back to the conditions of 1932-1936. In fact they have been encouraged by the words of the Atlantic charter. This charter has been referred to by many hon. members to-day, more especially by my friend the hon. member for Trinity (Mr. Roebuck). Let me just mention two points of that charter; the fifth principle is: "Security for all, improved labour standards, economic advancement and social security." The sixth—and this is very important—is, "That all may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want."

Subsequently to the Atlantic charter, representatives from twenty-six nations gathered in Washington and signed what has come to be known as the Allied Washington agreement. It was signed on January 2. The representatives from these nations bound themselves for their respective countries, to certain common principles in national policy, on which they based their hopes for a better future for the world. If we combine the thought of the Atlantic charter and the Washington conference, we get the words delivered by the President of the United States when he said:

Our own objectives are clear: the objective of smashing the militarism imposed by war lords upon their enslaved peoples; the objective of liberating the subjugated nations; the objective of establishing and securing freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want and freedom from fear anywhere in the world.

He went on:

When I say that this time we are determined not only to win the war, but also to maintain the security of the peace which will follow. . . . We of the United Nations are not making all
[Mr. W. R. Macdonald.]

this sacrifice of human effort and human lives to return to the kind of world we had after the last war.

The men who are enlisting to-day are not offering their lives to return to the kind of world in which they lived immediately preceding this war. We have a great country; we have great resources. Our problem is to see that everyone, irrespective of his station in life, gets a fair share of the good things of this great land.

Mr. VICTOR QUELCH (Acadia): I had not intended to take any part in this debate, but owing to the trend of the discussion I feel obliged to say a few words.

We have heard a good deal about a new social order that is to come after the war. But this bill proves conclusively that the government totally fails to comprehend the objective of any new order. For instance, is our objective merely to find jobs for people? Is that our objective to-day? Our objective to-day is to bring about a maximum war effort, not to find jobs. In order to maintain a maximum war effort we are actually having to conserve labour, and in order to make that maximum war effort the government has guaranteed that all financial restrictions shall be removed, that no financial restriction shall be allowed to cripple our war effort. All right; then when peace comes, let the government still declare that in order to maintain a maximum peace effort no financial restriction shall be allowed to impede that effort. If that is done, we shall not be worrying about jobs but, just as to-day, it will be a matter of where to get the labour to maintain our maximum peace effort. Let us get away from this defeatist psychology of wondering where we can find jobs and how to maintain our maximum effort. Let us use a little common sense in dealing with this question.

When the end of the war comes, Canada will be ready for the greatest era of prosperity in its history, provided, of course, the country is not invaded. At the end of the war our productive capacity will be greater than ever before in the history of the country; we shall have more skilled labour; it will be merely a question of diverting production from war needs to peace needs. We shall be able to give the people the full enjoyment of that productive capacity. Yet we hear people worrying about what the people are going to do at the end of the war, just as though we are bound to curtail production and go back into depression. I would remind the house of what Mr. Evans, administrator of the triple A in the United States of America said in their recent convention. He said,