

to the businessman. For one thing, the businessman is complaining of the overgovernment and overtaxation we have in Canada today, dominion, provincial and municipal. Each of these agencies is announcing extra burdens for the people to bear.

It is unfortunate that we have not seen in Canada some of the reforms that I for one have been advocating for some considerable time now, reforms which we should have had years ago. In 1927 I introduced into the house the question of parliamentary reform such as was instituted in England many years ago. We should have also constitutional reform, cabinet reform and law reform. All these reforms have been brought about in the old land.

In the course of the debate in 1927 the then minister of justice, an able man, said that he would see that the maritimes were given a royal commission to investigate their grievances concerning many matters that were brought to light at that time, and that was done. As to constitutional reform, I submit that the time has come when we should have something of that sort in this country. It is long overdue. In fact, it was due at the time the war broke out. The time is ripe also for cabinet reform and law reform along the lines indicated in this house.

In my opinion there has been altogether too much collecting of funds from the public for various purposes. Every day the ordinary businessman receives half a dozen letters from various agencies demanding subscriptions to one undertaking or another, and with the heavy taxes that we already have to bear, federal, provincial and municipal, the people cannot stand this extra burden. I know that members of the House of Commons receive such letters because I have seen some of them opening their mail, and every morning I notice half a dozen letters from various people seeking relief or money or assistance for one reason or another.

Taxation being what it is, there should be some central government agency to take care of all these demands. There was a government agency that operated under what was known as the War Charities Act, the purpose of which was to regulate all such appeals. Something of this sort is needed because there are altogether too many demands on the public today.

We have requests coming also through radio propaganda, but the people are not told the truth about public affairs. Then you have the Gallup poll. It seems to me it is all Gallup and no poll. I believe there was a racehorse known by that name that ran at a racetrack. We on this side of the house have not the public ear, although we polled a large

vote at the last election. I suggest that the government should direct all these activities. As regards the Gallup poll, may I ask who conducts the poll? Has anyone in this chamber a vote? I doubt very much whether the leader of the house tonight has a vote in the poll. I do not know whether he bets on racehorses. I bet on a horse Gallup once myself and it was the lamest duck you ever saw. It was like the Gallup poll, which has so much to say about the government, about our hon. friends to the left and others.

I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that the Canadian people today are demanding relief from the intolerable control system which we have in Canada. We are overgoverned and overtaxed, and we find now a slowing down of the process of reconversion from a war to a peace economy. The people were expecting much more satisfactory progress in reconversion than we have had, and, dear knows, they are entitled to it. The Canadian people are long-suffering, but there is a limit to their patience, and that limit has been reached. I do not say that by way of criticism of this government, because I believe the people are criticizing all governments. The fact is, however, that mistakes have been made in the process of reconversion and the people are losing confidence in all governments. They are being called upon to pay too many taxes.

The people are not acquainted with the facts. I think there is too much soothing syrup being served up for the comfort and happiness of the people. There is no sacrifice that Canadians are not prepared to make if it can be shown that they are in the public interest. I believe our people are willing to face the facts, if only they know what the facts really are. But they want to be told the truth. They will no longer be treated as they have been. They want to know the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about what is going on, not only here but throughout the country, in connection with all these matters for which they are being taxed. They want to know how our public business is being conducted, and they want to know the official truth. They want to have something besides propaganda.

After all is said and done, who is paying for the great war and for the reconstruction days after it? The public back in the constituencies are. Some of them have already contributed blood and treasure which is uncountable. It is the ordinary man back home in the country who pays, and he is looking for a better deal from everybody.