

machinery was being set up to carry out this very thing, I wrote to the associate deputy minister in November on behalf of a returned soldier who has been farming on sub-marginal land and who had appealed to me. My letter read:

Mr. —, who is forty-six years of age and a returned soldier with wife and two children, is anxious to place his services at the disposal of the country in any capacity. He advises me that he is a mechanical draftsman and has had considerable experience with the Grand Forks Gas and Electric Light Company in North Dakota. He also states that he has done drawings for the patent office in Ottawa on several occasions, and is anxious to be of as great assistance as possible during the present crisis.

The deputy minister wrote in reply:

There should be some place in the war industries of the nation where the services of this man could be used to advantage.

I noted in the public press, yesterday, a statement by Mr. F. H. Avery of the Department of Labour for the province of Ontario, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, that his department was engaged in Ontario in finding where employees were needed and locating such employees. He said that there was already very considerable in the way of shortage.

Might I suggest that you, in turn, advise Mr. — to communicate directly with Mr. Avery, giving him all his qualifications, and asking him to place him.

I anticipated that what did actually happen would happen, and rather than annoy my friend, who lives quite a long distance from regular mail service, I took the responsibility of doing the writing myself. I set out his qualifications in a letter to Mr. Avery, who advised me, in view of the fact that this man was living in Saskatchewan, that the Ontario authorities were not encouraging men to come east and that I had better try one of the western offices. So then I wrote to Winnipeg, and they replied that, since this man was living in Saskatchewan, it would be well to take up the matter of his employment with Regina. I then took the matter up with Regina. But in Saskatchewan there are no war industries of any consequence where a man with his qualifications could find employment; so the merry-go-round went on, and the man is still awaiting information that will enable him to serve in a useful capacity in the present crisis.

I have heard some hon. gentlemen opposite sometimes say, when we were speaking here of conditions in other parts of Canada, that if men wanted to work they could find work. I have spoken to some of these hon. members privately and asked them: Can you place in some war industry in your constituency a well qualified man, or men who are willing to come to Ontario or Quebec from Saskatchewan, young men who are able and

[Mr. Nicholson.]

willing to work in any capacity? I have not been able to discover any place in Ontario which is willing to encourage men to come from Saskatchewan to find employment. I feel, Mr. Speaker, that by this time, the minister having written this letter on July 27 last, some machinery should have been set up whereby people such as the man of whom I have spoken could be placed in employment somewhere in Canada where they could make their contribution in the greatest struggle in human history. I submit that the government would do well to consider first its responsibility to agriculture, and, second, its responsibility to the large number of men in Canada who are anxious to get into industry at this time in order that they may make a greater contribution to our war effort than they are now making.

Motion (Mr. Ilsley) agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Fournier (Hull) in the chair.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Mr. Chairman, I was wondering whether the Minister of Finance had anything to add to the statement which he made on this resolution the day before yesterday, or would he prefer to answer questions as we go along? It seems to me there is a great deal that still requires to be elucidated.

The resolution covers three different phases of governmental activity. By section 1, a vote of credit of \$1,300,000,000 is sought, which is to be devoted to:

- (a) the security, defence, peace, order and welfare of Canada;
- (b) the conduct of naval, military and air operations in or beyond Canada;
- (c) promoting the continuance of trade, industry and business communications, whether by means of insurance or indemnity against war risk or in any other manner whatsoever; and
- (d) the carrying out of any measure deemed necessary or advisable by the governor in council in consequence of the existence of a state of war.

Paragraph (d) I would call an omnibus clause.

The minister in his very concise statement did not elaborate with regard to any one of these four objectives. At the moment I am interested, as I think the country will be interested, in knowing just what portion of this huge vote of \$1,300,000,000 is to be devoted to promoting the continuance of trade. Second, what portion is to be devoted to promoting the continuance of trade, industry and business communications, and is this promotion to be limited to means of insurance or indemnity or what-not?

I think the committee is entitled to some further elaboration and explanation of the