

University, in a remarkable talk on the plan submitted to the British authorities by Sir William Beveridge, should be heeded: to copy this plan closely would be the wrong thing to do. We can and must, according to Mr. James, inaugurate a system adapted to the peculiar conditions obtaining in our country. Although we should find it advantageous to adopt some points of this scheme, which is a thorough and methodical study of the whole subject, we could not, without running the risk of serious mistakes, adopt it as a whole. Before going ahead we should make sure that we are on solid ground.

It is of primary importance that our whole population be secured against destitution and that all able-bodied persons find steady and reasonably-paid employment. The Government knows that unemployment must be avoided so far as possible.

Our first duty is to secure employment for our people. The discharge of this important duty is bound to bear fruit. Work ensures public contentment and happiness and carries its own reward. Work is beneficial to man. Idleness is degrading, and work, being in accordance with a natural law, is indispensable for a healthy population. We must fend off the disastrous situation in which we found ourselves a few years ago, when the available jobs were not numerous enough to go around.

The Government realizes the extreme importance of considering means of finding work for our men after the war, and every province, city, town and industry must co-operate to this end. The State should assist individuals only when private enterprise fails to do so. The Government is thoroughly conversant with this situation, and the Speech from the Throne states, among other things, that nothing should be neglected to insure that after the war the men and women of our armed forces and war industries shall find useful and remunerative employment; that the Ministers are already studying international agreements and domestic measures that would assure reasonable incomes to primary producers and general employment at the close of hostilities.

Honourable senators, the Speech from the Throne proposes, among other things, that we take the necessary steps to procure employment for everyone after the war. A committee will be set up to consider the best means of drafting a social security programme and a national health insurance scheme.

In connection with the war, the Speech from the Throne states that the Government will see to the maintenance and reinforcement of our two overseas army corps, at the same

time insuring the maintenance of various units and formations required for the territorial and coastal defences of Canada and other Western territories; that the Air Force will pursue its triple mission; that our naval strength will be further increased. All these measures, forecast in the Speech from the Throne, are praiseworthy.

Honourable senators, we must contribute to the maintenance and the improvement of our social welfare, of our standard of living. We must have faith in the future of democracy.

In a recent statement the Vice-President of the United States, Mr. Wallace, speaking on post-war plans, described the great future that he foresaw for his country: he told us of an America where everyone could become a member of the middle class and enjoy all its prerogatives.

Mr. Wallace is also the chairman of the Economic War Board. Here is part of his statement:

The spirit of competition will and must continue to be one of our main driving forces.

We can have full employment in this country without destroying private initiative, private capital, or private enterprise.

Government can and must accept the major responsibilities for filling in whatever gaps business leaves. The more private enterprise succeeds in maintaining full employment, the less Government spending will be required.

Individual initiative and enterprise, and Government responsibility for the general welfare, will continue to contribute jointly towards a better life for our people.

Mr. Wallace scoffs at those who whisper about the collectivization of American life and the destruction of free enterprise. We need, he adds, the driving force of self-interest in order to produce as much work as possible.

Businessmen will be encouraged to do what competition has always tended to make them do—to reduce prices as the costs fall, to increase the level of sales and employment, to use profit only as an incentive to increase production or to lower costs.

One of the war aims of the allied democracies would be to give everyone the advantage of enjoying the privileges heretofore reserved for the middle classes.

Canada is also contemplating the adoption of a vast reconstruction programme in its effort to attain to a fuller economic life. As early as the beginning of 1941 a select committee of the Federal Cabinet was appointed to study the problem of post-war reconstruction. At a later date the responsibility of studying and recommending definite measures was vested in a reconstruction committee, headed by Dr. F. Cyril James, Principal of McGill University. Dr. James gathered around him representatives of labour and industry, as well as members of university