

*The Address—Mr. George*

All Canadians are aware of the event leading up to Canada's position in the build-up of defence against the aggressive policies of those countries who do not desire peace. The Right Hon. Winston Churchill reminded us, in his Ottawa speech, that our own Prime Minister had a major share in building the North Atlantic treaty. The meeting of the North Atlantic council which concluded in Lisbon only four days ago is a very recent indication of the ability of free nations in the west to work together, in an atmosphere of mutual co-operation and understanding, not only to preserve peace and security in the face of the threat of Russian imperialism, but also to promote the welfare and prosperity of the peoples of the North Atlantic community. We stand by the side of our allies in the British commonwealth, the United States and the other nations fighting in Korea. We are united and working in order that war may not be inevitable.

The situation in the world today can allow to Canada no relief in the program of military preparedness that we have undertaken. The free countries are just beginning to achieve the kind of strength that is needed to discourage or to curb aggression.

I should like here to pay tribute to those Canadians who are so gallantly upholding our cause in the Korean struggle. The navy is doing an excellent job and the 25th brigade is nobly living up to the traditions established by our fighting men of the past. The R.C.A.F. 426 squadron is giving a good account of itself on the Pacific airlift. The Minister of Labour paid fitting tribute to these men of the services in his New Year's message when he selected them as the men of the year.

Canada is proud too to see the 27th brigade take its place in Europe beside the armies of the other NATO nations and to see our second jet fighter squadron for NATO arrive in the United Kingdom. All this is concrete evidence that Canada is doing her part as a member of NATO in order to ensure lasting peace.

In addition to maintaining our present forces in Canada, Korea and Europe, the armed forces must continue to expand to meet the needs of NATO, especially in respect of air power, and to be ready for any emergency. This will necessitate continued spending on a very large scale. If our defence expenditures seem to involve considerable sacrifices for Canadians, we need only look, for an example of fortitude, to the United Kingdom where sacrifices are being made for the same purpose. These sacrifices are made in circumstances of personal hardship which must excite not only our sympathy but also our heartfelt admiration for the devotion and

courage with which they are borne. We, too, must be ready to make greater sacrifices, counting the cost in terms of the freedom that is at stake rather than in terms of what we must pay to preserve that freedom.

Our experience in two world wars has shown the great value of our reserve forces, for without them we would have been unable to field trained forces in time to meet the demands. Today the standard of our reserve forces is the highest it has ever been. Most of the units have sufficient trained officers, warrant officers, N.C.O.'s and men to enable them, when it becomes necessary, to mobilize and train efficiently, and this, after all, is the role of the reserve. Thanks to the policies of the present government and particularly to the thinking of the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Claxton), the reserve forces have sufficient materials and equipment, and pay has been provided, all of which, in my opinion, is ample to ensure the continued high state of efficiency of the reserve forces.

Canadians generally are gratified by the decision of the government to proceed, alone if necessary, with the construction of the St. Lawrence waterway. No one will deny that the construction of this project will benefit the economic development of the whole nation. This being true, then a continuation of the project to the maritimes would be equally beneficial. Several years ago Mr. W. A. S. Melanson, of Moncton, produced a plan called the "St. Mary's Tidal Project", the completion of which would make available upward of one million horsepower. The resultant industrialization would make a canal through the isthmus of Chignecto a necessity, but it would have to be built from Moncton to Shediac. Some preliminary study has been given to this project by the Department of Resources and Development, but it was done previously to the development of Labrador iron and the setting up of the St. Lawrence seaway authority. In order to obtain more industry for the maritimes, we must have more power, and I strongly urge this government to take the initiative and offer assistance, financial and technical, to the provincial governments of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, in order that a complete survey may be made. We, in the maritimes, are a proud people and we are ambitious for Canada, as well as for our own part of it. We want to see the maritimes keep pace with the rest of Canada; and the development of this project, which could well be called the maritime extension of the St. Lawrence waterways development, would provide the industries which are sorely needed, besides opening up the bay of Fundy and New England ports to lake shipping.

[Mr. George.]