

several years, and they are, of course, most anxious that all precautions be taken to ensure maintenance of present standards. Conditions must not be allowed to deteriorate to the point where fishermen will be faced by poverty such as they encountered for so many years prior to the war.

The main contentious problems to date in the dominion-provincial discussions have been in the fields of taxes and subsidies or grants. I must express agreement with that part of the January submission by the government of Nova Scotia which stated:

The ideal condition would be found when all the provinces of the dominion would have such revenues and such levels of economic well-being among their people as to make the granting of subsidies by the dominion government unnecessary.

This is undoubtedly the ideal condition. But in a country the size of Canada, with economic, geographic and climatic inequalities throughout its entire length and breadth, the ideal may quite likely never be attainable in all provinces. Under these circumstances, if we are to be a nation in fact as well as in word, these inequalities must be levelled out to the greatest possible extent, and subsidies or grants then become of great importance.

We speak today of nationhood in Canada, and we are to discuss this session a bill on citizenship, as well as to give consideration to the design of a distinctive national flag. These are healthy evidences of growth, but we must keep in mind that if we are to be a nation we must go forward as one unified country and not as nine separate and loosely coordinated provinces with boundaries closely drawn. To the greatest possible extent the same fruits of nationhood should be available for enjoyment by all citizens regardless of where they happened to be born or dwell. The government is to be highly commended for its forceful leadership in this direction through the medium of its proposals.

To Nova Scotians, being located as we are, at the end of a long, slow rail haul from central Canada, this is of the greatest significance. Nova Scotians want to be part of Canada as a nation, and they want to have Canadian citizenship. They want, also, to enjoy all the benefits accruing from these factors. Among other things they are justifiably eager to have access to central Canadian and foreign markets on a fair, bilateral basis. They are looking forward to faster rail transportation to and from central Canada, and to having better facilities, both rolling stock and road beds, within the province. The important project now under con-

sideration, of linking up the Nova Scotia mainland with the highly industrialized island of Cape Breton, by means of a bridge or causeway, should be a vital part of any programme of improvements in our transportation system.

We do not expect that any common ground reached between the dominion and the provinces will provide the basis for a cure-all, but we do look forward hopefully to an understanding, because we feel that it would be a great stride forward, whereas failure to reach any understanding may well prove a step backward.

The speech from the throne reflects in good measure the progress being made in Canada and by Canada. It bears repeating that to a great degree that progress is directly attributable to the Prime Minister. He is a great leader, a great Canadian and a great world statesman, of whom all our countrymen are justifiably proud. His place in Canadian and world history is assured.

There is one other word I would say about great men, Mr. Speaker. I would feel that I had not discharged my responsibilities to all Nova Scotians, and indeed to all Canadians, if I did not say a word in appreciation of the services of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley). In Nova Scotia we take full and justifiable pride in our minister. No man has worked more diligently, more sincerely and to better advantage for his native province and his country than has the Minister of Finance. He has established a reputation for integrity, even in a field which is sometimes unpleasant to himself as well as to the rank and file, which is unsurpassable. He has carved in our history a place which ranks him among the great public men of the nation.

In closing I would say, having in mind the incomparable war record of the dominion, with its population of only some twelve million people, that we have a splendid background of experience and accomplishment upon which to build in meeting the challenging and complex problems of peace.

The keystones of our war effort were initiative, determination and unity of purpose, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Nothing less than the same spirit on the part of all Canadians will suffice if Canada is to discharge her enhanced responsibilities as a nation at home and abroad.

With the full knowledge that in the spirit of unity we did it under conditions of war, we can go forward now in complete confidence that we can and will do it again in peace.

Mr. JOHN BRACKEN (Leader of the Opposition): The speech from the throne is