

liquidation of emergency powers, the revision of taxation consistent with the transition from our direct war obligations to the less exacting but still onerous post-war obligations, and the new agreements with the provinces.

The policy of gradualness in lifting the controls which served such a valuable purpose during the war, has been followed wisely. We saw in other countries the extraordinary rise and fall of prices caused by the sudden removal of controls. It is well to remember that the burden of these violent fluctuations, both up and down, falls most heavily upon those least able to bear it—the wage earners and the small shopkeepers. In Canada day by day, week by week, and month by month, the controls have been removed a little at a time, with the result that extreme changes in the price level have been avoided. At the present rate of progress, I look forward to a complete end to the system of emergency controls within the current year.

It is gratifying to note that the programme of social security to which the present government is dedicated is to be further advanced during the current session by way of an amendment to the Old Age Pensions Act. In the readjustment of taxation which is clearly foreshadowed, I suggest that it may be possible to attain the objective of a universal contributory old age pension system as well as a reduction in the income tax, perhaps somewhat less far-reaching than might otherwise be the case.

Another most important item of legislation foreshadowed in the Speech from the Throne is the long-deferred Redistribution Bill, which may not be of as much interest in this house as in the other. It was perhaps wise, as well as inevitable, that this measure should have been postponed until the end of the war, but we are glad to see it coming forward now. We in British Columbia are especially glad to know that the introduction of this bill is bound to result in increased representation for that province in the House of Commons. Our experience with redistribution bills in the past has not been a happy one. British Columbia always seems to be running far behind the procession, and to receive a representation much less than is warranted by her population. Possibly the reason is that our population is growing so rapidly that by the time the figures are published they are out of date.

Of the many functions of a senator, one is to guard the rights of the province which he represents. In the coming session it will be one of my most active interests and my humble duty to render what assistance I am permitted to render in order to insure British Columbia

the representation which is her just due. That would give her more members in the other house and more senators. We have nothing to do with the number of members in the House of Commons, but I would suggest that the present population of British Columbia entitles that province to at least six or seven additional representatives in the Senate.

Honourable senators, I am sure that every member of this house will welcome the opportunity foreshadowed in the Speech from the Throne of participating in a joint committee of the two houses of parliament for the purpose of considering how the preservation and advancement of human rights and fundamental freedoms may best be implemented. I believe that here in Canada we have not only the highest standard of living, but the most admirable system of free institutions to be found anywhere on the face of this earth. Righteousness promotes the pursuits of peace. Wickedness sows the seeds of war. It is only by holding our moral standards high that we can have real peace in our own country and have a real effect on the peace of the world. Freedom, however, can be preserved only by ceaseless vigilance. In the words of His Majesty the King, when he unveiled our National War Memorial:

Without peace there can be no enduring freedom; and without freedom no enduring peace.

This year we shall celebrate the 80th anniversary of confederation. My remarks on this occasion would be incomplete if I did not say something about the way in which the hopes and plans of the Fathers of Confederation have been realized. There was a vision of a great new nation stretching from sea to sea across the north half of this continent. Four years after confederation my province of British Columbia joined the union. The physical framework of the new nation was there. We now know there were natural resources undreamed of in 1871, for many millions of people to develop.

But without statesmanship, natural resources are not enough. We have been fortunate in those eighty years to have had four great Prime Ministers: Macdonald, Laurier, Borden and Mackenzie King. Macdonald had the vision and the courage to lay the physical foundations of this nation. Laurier gave Canada its soul, the moral foundations of tolerance and freedom and unity of spirit. Borden established our right to speak with our own voice in the councils of the nations, and under Mackenzie King Canada has become a world power.