

before. These men, whether French-speaking or English-speaking, were unanimous in suggesting that it would be useless to send as business agents to South America people who do not possess a mentality that will adapt itself to the commercial practices and the way of life of South American citizens.

Yet, would it not be wise to send to these foreign countries people with some kind of business experience? We have confidence in intellectual attainments of those young people who graduate from our universities and our specialized schools of commerce and industry. Nevertheless, before assigning them to our various embassies and commercial posts abroad, should we not put them through some field experience here so that they may learn to distinguish between possible and impossible things? They will be the first to benefit from that experience, even long before their country, in due course, may take advantage of their great knowledge based on first-hand and high-grade experience.

I wish to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of this house the forthcoming celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of one of our financial institutions which has lived, and continues to live, within reality, and which has rendered incalculable services to the nation as a whole. I refer to Les Caisses Populaires, or the Credit Unions.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Vaillancourt: Next summer, from the 24th to the 27th of August there will take place in Levis, Quebec, an international convention of savings and credit co-operative institutions, and leaders from all parts of the world will be present. We shall then commemorate the life and work of the late Alphonse Desjardins, founder of that wonderful co-operative movement of the North American continent. This modest citizen of Levis, a former civil servant was, with his indomitable energy and determination, the Canadian creator of this regenerating movement which means so much for the economic and general salvation of the working classes.

In my city of Levis we have erected a monument to commemorate this anniversary: it is a building which is called "Edifice Desjardins—Desjardins Building". In that building we have centralized all the institutions which if not in fact created by the late Alphonse Desjardins were inspired by him. I gladly avail myself of the present opportunity to extend to leaders of the co-operative movement in all parts of the world a cordial welcome to this celebration. May they come from everywhere, these leaders of the co-operative movement! May they bring to us the best of their minds and hearts and the fruitful help of

their knowledge and experience! Perhaps, through the many sessions of intense study that will then be held, we shall succeed in laying the foundations of a more Christian, more social, more charitable and more human economy.

When Mr. Desjardins the founder of the first credit union, died in 1920, the press hailed him as the saviour of his race. Thirty years later I can say that he was more than the saviour of his race; he was the promoter of a more human economy, and he may well have been the saviour of the economy of the whole nation.

Another anniversary of special interest to me is to be celebrated in the fall of 1950. It is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the Quebec Maple Sugar Producers' Society.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Vaillancourt: For a quarter of a century this society has endeavoured to revive the maple sugar industry, which is the oldest agricultural industry in this country, and to restore to it its original worth, which had been lost. On the occasion of its silver jubilee, La Société des Producteurs de Sucre d'Erable du Québec is proud to be able to remind our farmers of the powerful lift which they got through its work, and to say that this national product is appreciated, savoured and liked by all who have been fortunate enough to taste it.

Hon. Mr. Lacasse: Including senators!

Hon. Mr. Vaillancourt: To sum up, let us work towards the organization of a moral and social economy that will be based upon charity and the love of men. We are told that we fought the last war to save Christian civilization. Did Christ come down on earth to teach us anything else but the moral economy of mutual love? By looking into the past and realizing what our ancestors have built and created through that spirit of love, mutual help and charity, by following the lead which they gave us, let us also strive to base our material economy on something concrete and real. I am not one of those who will mournfully look back to times and things bygone, and moan over the present and despair of the future. I am rather one of those who mildly remember the past, try to cope realistically with the present, and face the future with confidence, because there still are at the head of our organizations people who believe and love.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Burke the debate was adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.