

The Address—Mr. Hanna

been indulged in by a good many other people. All of us remember, I am sure, that during the darkest days of world war II the great Sir Winston Churchill proposed what was in effect an outright amalgamation of the British and French empires. Unfortunately, such a bold and imaginative development was not to be. However, had it taken place I am sure this grand union, or should I say reunion, of the British and French peoples would have been worked out along lines similar to those which were used so effectively in building the great Dominion of Canada.

But if it is not practicable at this time to bring new members into the commonwealth from outside, I am proud that Canada has played such an important part in promoting international good will by other means. I refer, of course, to another avenue of our external relations, namely, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Here we have banded together some 14 freedom loving nations not only for mutual defence but also for the promotion of better social, cultural and economic ties. We have unstinting confidence in the present and ultimate success of NATO. Here is another vast area of mankind in which we believe war to be unthinkable as a solution to mutual problems.

In the still wider field of the United Nations itself Canada has earned for herself an enviable reputation for promoting the highest ideals of mankind. We follow this course because as a people we are deeply and genuinely concerned about the future peace and prosperity of the whole world. Unfortunately, in this larger sphere we are not yet sure that war is impossible but we will never stop trying to make it so.

It has become fashionable, Mr. Speaker, for some people, some pessimists, to speculate upon what they regard as the impracticability of our cordial relations with the United States upon the one hand and the members of the British commonwealth on the other. Such sceptics completely overlook the fact that one of the greatest single factors in world affairs today is the now traditional basic friendship and understanding that exists among the great English speaking peoples of the world. Certainly there are differences among us but they are superficial only. The things that unite us are far stronger than those that divide us. I for one hope and believe that this happy state of affairs will soon be spread all over the face of the earth. That is the essence of the international outlook of this Liberal government. We believe that our friends, the people of the United States, appreciate fully what

the commonwealth means to the peace and security of the world. For our part, we will never cease trying until the spirit of mutual trust so evident amongst the commonwealth partners thoroughly permeates the whole United Nations.

We are happy, Mr. Speaker, that the speech from the throne asks parliament to approve a measure to set up a Canada council for the arts, humanities and social sciences. Important also is the suggested aid to our hard-pressed universities. This financial assistance, if approved by parliament, will be extended in two ways, namely, grants for capital expenditures and annual grants for current operations.

The other day I happened to see the breakdown of the finances of the University of Alberta in Edmonton for the current fiscal year. It shows a provincial grant for operation of \$2,167,000, a federal grant for operation of \$545,000, and students' fees amounting to \$900,000. Under the proposal in the speech from the throne the federal grant will be about \$1,100,000. This amount will be 26 per cent of the university's annual operating budget whereas students' fees will be about 21 per cent. I mention these figures because many people are under the impression that very little is being done by our senior governments for higher education.

The increased grants to the provinces for the encouragement of technical and vocational training will also help to meet a very real need in our country's development.

The proposal to set up a committee in the other place to consider ways and means of assisting agriculture further will be welcomed by all the people of Canada. I am sure this is a matter which will have everyone's wholehearted support. More of our people are engaged in agriculture than in any other single business. Yet their standard of living is hardly up to par with that of those who spend their energies in industrial pursuits.

In many cases the reason is that these people are operating what is generally called submarginal land. Their farms simply will not yield a decent standard of living in return for the effort expended. It is suggested that we take some of these farms out of active agricultural production and return them to some use more in keeping with their productive capacity. This will conserve not only the land itself but also the labour being expended on it without satisfactory results. Most of this land is not really submarginal at all but submarginal only in its present use. Its yield may be quite considerable in some other use. I am sure we will all await the findings of this committee with interest.