

nation's public men there is bound to result a mischievous situation, might I say that it is a matter of no ordinary significance that for the fifth time in his career the present Prime Minister of Canada is charged with the responsibility of leading the government of this nation. In the history of our country few public men have been as richly endowed with the qualities of leadership which have enabled the Prime Minister to make his contribution to the progress of Canada.

In the speech from the throne an effort is made to give to Canadians generally the feeling that we belong to no mean nation. The problems that lie ahead are not going to be resolved if there is a lack of faith in ourselves or in our country. The fact is that at the end of the war we stand as one of the important nations of the world; fourth in the production of war minerals; well up as a naval and air power, and having contributed almost a million men and women to the armed services. We have a country of which we may be proud, and it is one of our responsibilities to see that Canada emerges along the lines which her greatness warrants.

It is for this reason that in the speech from the throne the government has sought to establish in the national life certain necessary symbols—symbols which will make every boy and girl and every adult in this country proud of the fact that they belong to Canada, that they belong to this nation now more than seventy-five years old, a nation which extends from sea to sea, and has not only a heritage but a future that is undoubted and unmistakable. To that end I do not think one should overlook the decision of the government to clarify and to regularize the status of Canadian citizenship.

We should not hesitate to acknowledge our responsibility as a member of the family of nations. But at the same time we should not hesitate to recognize the contribution this country has made throughout the war, a notable contribution which has won for this nation a true certificate of nationhood. The right to be able to call ourselves citizens of Canada is one which is in keeping with our dignity, in keeping with our achievements and in keeping with our aspirations.

During the war the government has been faced with the responsibility of directing the war effort of Canada. While the war was in progress it sought to anticipate some of the problems that would face us in the period of reconversion, and in the longer post-war period. We were in no different position from that of other countries. All one has to do is to read the newspapers and the

reviews to see that the problems now facing us are the problems which are facing governments in other parts of the world. The problems facing us at this time are problems which are facing other governments with different social and economic ideologies. This seems the best proof that, no matter what one's basic political and social policy may be, one does not escape the mischief of the kind of problems with which, in this day, governments have to cope.

The government's plan of social security is one which is closely related to the present situation. It was this government which brought in the scheme of old age pensions, and it was this government which only recently made a proposal to make certain extensions in the old age pensions provision.

Our family allowances scheme, accepted in this house with only one dissentient, represents a forward measure which, in terms of public investment will result in an expenditure of \$250 million a year, distributed among our people, particularly to the people who need assistance. This is indeed a form of public investment which one cannot look upon as only an idle gesture, but rather as one which has a definite relationship to some of the programmes upon which hon. members who have taken part thus far in the debate have suggested we must enter.

Unemployment insurance, introduced by the present government in 1941, at a time when the nations on our side were not certain of victory, when the problems of war were extremely difficult and hazardous, has resulted in the creation of a fund of a little less than \$300 million. This was not offered as a means to cure, but as a means of relieving those who found themselves unemployed. Despite what one may think as to its adequacy, it is a measure which has gained an important function in our current situation.

The whole problem of reconversion, not without its difficulties, and not without creating its surpluses of man-power here and there—and I prefer to approach the problem squarely and factually—has had a real measure of success. In the language of the *Economist* of only two weeks ago our reconversion plans have been stamped by those associated with that responsible publication as being among the foremost and most responsible of those of any of the united nations.

While the war was on, in many plants we tapered off gradually to meet the problems which now face us. It should be remembered that difficulties attend other countries, as well as our own; and the fact that we have now in a number of localities a surplus of labour