

desirable citizens and will play an important part in our future. This intake will serve to offset to some extent our losses through emigration. We must bear in mind that this country needs in increasing numbers immigrants of the right type.

Many of our soldiers, sailors and airmen have been discharged from the services, and either they are deriving educational or other benefits under the veterans legislation, or they have been rehabilitated. Others will remain in the services to seek their careers. Some, already discharged, will be reattracted to the forces, and there will also be new enlistments.

Members of this house have frequently emphasized the value of modern weapons and equipment for the peace-time services, both permanent and reserve, and have insisted on pay comparable with what could be obtained in civil life for employment at corresponding levels. We have also asked for a generous programme of retirement benefits, and are anxious to make life in the services attractive since it is desired to have the best type of men in our forces.

On the other hand there is a heavy responsibility devolving upon the chiefs of staff, and right down through the chain of command, to see that the services, in turn, make the maximum contribution. We want to see in our forces officers and men who are well turned out and proud of their uniforms. They must be kept busy, interested, and made to feel that they are important units in the pattern of Canadian life. That the forces can make a worth-while contribution to our national life goes without saying. We have but to refer to their contributions and initiative in scientific developments and exercises such as musk-ox to remind us of the vital roles they can play. Full advantage should be taken of the great fund of knowledge and experience accumulated in the past few years. Further and continued progress must be encouraged.

Veterans who have been rehabilitated are pleased with the consideration which has been extended to them through this government by a grateful nation. On the basis of the splendid legislation enacted thus far and exemplified by the War Service Grants and War Veterans' Allowances Acts, they have the greatest confidence that at the earliest possible date this house will consider all outstanding veterans' matters and promulgate a veterans' charter which will be a credit to them and to this country.

The importance this government, and indeed this parliament, has attached to the welfare of veterans, was reflected by the spirit prevailing in the special committee on veterans affairs last session. As a new member, it

[Mr. Winters.]

was a pleasant revelation to me to see how representatives of all parties and groups on this committee forgot party politics and worked together in the common interest of the veteran. In my opinion this attitude does great credit to this house and raises its esteem in the eyes of the country. It is hoped it will set the pattern for greater unity of purpose in other phases of legislation.

The throne speech sets forth the urgent food situation obtaining throughout the world, and states that food is the key to peaceful reconstruction. Canada's accomplishments in the field of food production during the war were magnificent because of the untiring efforts of thousands of men and women, many of whom had passed the normal age of retirement, but who carried on in the absence of their sons and daughters in the armed forces or in munitions plants.

Under the continued outstanding and forceful leadership of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner), the Canadian farm community can be relied upon with confidence to face the new peace-time challenge of maximum farm production to alleviate the current critical world situation.

Canadian fishermen wish to emphasize that any and all food negotiations should include fish, which is an important item on all food programmes. We feel that we can rely upon the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Bridges) to safeguard our interests in this field.

Now, Mr. Speaker, may I say a few words about the dominion-provincial conferences. To date, there have been three meetings, and the fourth is scheduled for April 25. In my opinion the importance of these conferences is vital and we in Nova Scotia hope that they will produce satisfactory results. The dominion proposals are laudable, and such objectives as the improvement of the tax system, encouragement of employment and advancement of social services, such as medical care and old age pensions, in particular, are in the nation's best interests.

Nova Scotians commend this government for recognizing the dominion's great fishing industry by declaring in its proposals that it plans to do research on fish biology, utilization of fish products and transportation of fish. The proposals involve consideration of means by which credit can be provided for improving the catching, processing and distribution of fish. In fact, they offer every assurance that this industry will be encouraged.

By virtue of heavy foreign demands for fish, Canadian fishermen have enjoyed a well merited measure of prosperity during the past