

steps full of promise. A third department, just as important as the others, has been created, that of National Health and Welfare. Its programme is essential to the social welfare of Canada and, in common with the other two, its efficient operation will require the close cooperation of the provinces. Let us hope that the Federal-Provincial Conference, which met, on the invitation of the government, on August 6 last, will have a happy ending for the future of the country. The progress and development of Canada demand that the various governments come to an agreement.

(Text): A great task has been achieved, Mr. Speaker, in connection with the winning of the peace and the smooth transition of the whole economy of our nation from war-time to peace-time needs.

The speech from the throne outlines what the government proposes to do to implement what has been done in previous sessions. The new sessional programme mentions, among other things, the intention of the government to speed the orderly release of men and women from the armed forces, to maintain long-term markets, to restore external trade, and to promote a high level of employment.

We are endeavouring to ensure world security by promoting lasting prosperity. As this objective cannot be accomplished by any nation in isolation and requires international cooperation, we must therefore restore and expand world trade. Canada has the obligation to share in this cooperation by obtaining export markets and also by stimulating larger imports, which will respectively, and as direct advantages to this country, increase employment and raise our standard of living.

Apart from the aforesaid advantages, this increase in the volume of our exports and imports will soon necessitate the establishment of a Canadian fleet of modern ocean-going cargo ships. Such a fleet, in my opinion, would add to Canada's prosperity, because it will give employment to a greater number of Canadians both as crew members to man the ships and as workers in our shipyards which will build and repair them. It is to be noted that our country ranks second only to our neighbours to the south in the production of cargo ships. Furthermore, the creation and maintenance of a merchant fleet will require proper nautical schools to prepare deck and engine room qualified personnel. Naval architecture and marine engineering are among other fields of activities which will thus be opened to our Canadian youth.

Canada, Mr. Speaker, is a maritime country. It is bordered on the east and west by two oceans, and our inland waters form a water-

way which goes to its very heart. We must therefore take advantage of this gift of nature and make more use of the cheap means of communication it affords.

I sincerely hope that in our post-war planning, our coastal and inland shipping will receive the attention of our government. This brings me to matters of particular interest to my county. There is a large number of these smaller ships in the gulf and river St. Lawrence. These ships provide an essential link by water between Montreal and Quebec and outports along both the south and the north shore. Better port facilities and an increase in the number of existing harbours along the coasts will be of benefit to those engaged in this trade and consequently to those parts of the country which depend entirely on these ships as their only means of communication with the industrial centres I have mentioned.

The government has shown its interest in our fisheries by the very appropriate floor placed under fish products. This measure is much appreciated by our fishermen and will be followed, I hope, by the consideration the government will give to markets for these products when new export markets are sought for our Canadian trade. The fishermen of my county, in addition to the building of other fishing harbours, would also welcome the establishment of a meteorological service. In my opinion, such a service could be provided at very little cost by using local radio stations to broadcast weather forecasts at regular and frequent intervals. This improvement should also prove of great assistance to our coastal shipping.

Furthermore, a plan of insurance to cover at low cost to their owners the fishing boats and their gear against marine perils could also prove feasible, with the cooperation of provincial governments, and would surely be beneficial to our fishing industry. I must add that for various reasons it is almost impossible to cover the smaller sized fishing boats through private marine insurance companies.

We are assembled here, Mr. Speaker, for the opening session of the twentieth parliament of Canada to fulfil the definite mandate we have individually received from the people of this country at the polls, which consists in the laying of sound foundations for a better and greater post-war Canada, whilst contributing our share toward international security. This task is great and far from being easy. I also wish to draw the special attention of this house to the many difficulties which will present themselves along the road which our country must travel to revert to its peace-time