

*The Address—Mr. Laflamme*

I regret to say that, during the last year, the farmer has reaped less benefit from this expansion than any other part of our economy. The problem of farm surpluses remains to be solved. Everybody realizes how manifold it is. The farming population of my county is thankful to the government, to which it has given its support since 1921—because they believe in liberalism—for maintaining the price of butter. The dairy industry is the basis of the rural economy in my district, and if the government were to abandon this support before the market for this product has become more stable, it would, I think, endanger the economy of all the farmers from my county and our province.

Still to be solved is also the question of other just as important products, to which I wish to draw the attention of the right hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner). If a diversified agricultural production such as this were better organized it might help to remedy the situation. When agricultural production will enjoy a stable market at home it will mark the opening of an era of unprecedented progress.

After overcoming the numerous difficulties that followed the war, Canada is now on the road of progress and continues to co-operate closely in the solution of international problems. Within the framework of the Colombo plan, she has contributed, since 1950, to increase the living standards of the peoples of south and southeast Asia. Without peace in the world, to what avail would be all our projects? Since the last Geneva conference, it seems that the Russians have shifted the conflict. In my opinion, their diplomatic offensive in Asia can only encourage free nations to give greater help to the underfed populations of that continent, to the full measure of our resources.

I am glad to hear that parliament will be asked to increase its contribution to the Colombo plan in order to accelerate the execution of many big projects, such as the erection of a dam at Warsak in northwestern Pakistan to be used for irrigation as well as for the production of electrical power so necessary to industrialization, the construction of a research atomic reactor offered to India and the implementation of other projects of lesser magnitude but at the same time important for some countries that did not receive much help from us. The rise of nationalism in Asia means the awakening of the masses. Those nations will no doubt seek to improve their living conditions. They will always have sympathy for those who will be the first to help them.

In a spirit of solidarity and charity, Canada must show to those nations that she contributes to their economic emancipation in order to ensure the triumph and expansion of our civilization. It would seem that throughout the world the unity of the free countries and their joint efforts to ensure peace in the world through a show of force capable of discouraging any would-be aggressor have achieved the desired results. Canada, with the understanding and support of her people, has borne her share of responsibilities towards this defence community.

This unity of strength of the free peoples will no doubt bring about a change in the tactics of the communist countries. It appears evident even now that Russia is attempting, by a diplomatic offensive, to render this force inoperative. It therefore appears all important for the free world to spread knowledge of the advantages of our democratic institutions, chief among which, to my mind, is the freedom of our people to choose the form of government they desire.

*(Text):*

Before I resume my seat, I do not wish to omit mentioning publicly the great success achieved by the Canadian delegation at the last meeting of the United Nations general assembly. The acceptance of sixteen new member nations, which was one of the main features of this meeting, has undoubtedly strengthened the position of this world assembly, widening its influence in its purpose to maintain peace through better understanding between nations, and all this is the result of the work of our delegation.

May I, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the hon. members of this house, offer my very warm congratulations to the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin) for the efficiency he has shown as head of our delegation.

In the eyes of the world, I would say that the result shows that our nation earnestly desires peace and understanding between all nations and has no selfish ambitions.

*(Translation):*

I should like in closing to express heartfelt congratulations to the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mrs. Shipley) for the fine account she has given in moving the address to His Excellency the Governor General.

Her condensed outline of the economy and of the projects for the future of Canada is proof of her high qualifications, which are an honour to the constituency she represents with such dignity in the house, and indicative of her wide experience in public affairs.

Her speech is a brilliant testimony to the glory and talents of all Canadian womenfolk,