

*The Address—Mr. McMillan*

security proposal, Canada will have for her aged citizens a program that will stand comparison with any other such program in the world.

Among other items in the forecast of legislation, we are pleased to note that there is one to relieve the difficulties of veterans and their dependents.

We are pleased to note that the President of the United States, in his economic message to the eighty-second congress, again stressed that the United States should start immediately on the St. Lawrence seaway and power project. There was a report from his council of economic advisers which said:

The project must be begun if imported ore is to become economically available in quantity in our inland steel centres by 1956, when the flow of Mesabi ore will almost certainly have begun to dwindle.

This work will be proceeded with in conjunction with our country when the legislation is finally adopted. When the navigation improvements are completed they will add greatly not only to the economic welfare of our newest province of Newfoundland, with its iron ore, but to many other parts of Canada as well. The power development part of the project will supply areas, particularly in Ontario, that have been short of electric power in recent years, and permit a greater industrial development of those areas.

It is the hope of our government to admit many new, carefully selected people, mostly from western Europe and the United Kingdom. Financial aid will be extended to help pay the fares of many of these people coming both by sea and by air. This tide of new people will strengthen the economy of our country, and they will be a valuable addition to our Canadian working force in helping us meet our obligations in preparation for defence.

Canada is a land of opportunity for these people. In the past many have been freely admitted. I agree that the few who have abused the privileges of citizenship granted them should be subject to further examination, followed by whatever action the government sees fit to take.

As a medical man, I am particularly interested in the health program which the federal government has made possible in recent years. I will enumerate what to my mind are some of the outstanding features of that program.

The national health program announced in May, 1948, was the most outstanding event in Canada's recent health history. In the past two and a half years plans have been made to spend \$50 million out of the federal

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health grants to the provinces. With the assistance of these grants, health services in Canada are reaching new high levels. In all ten provinces careful surveys of existing facilities and services are being undertaken. Badly needed new hospitals and additions have provided 25,000 new beds. In various fields the government has helped to train 3,500 health workers; and staffs have been added to provincial and local health services. Medical research has been greatly advanced by federal grants. Finally, the federal government, through almost 3,000 individual projects, has assisted the provinces to intensify their preventive and treatment programs against such dreaded diseases as cancer, tuberculosis, mental illness, venereal disease and crippling conditions in children. I think this program is really the foundation of a national health scheme.

I am quite aware of the fact that most health measures come directly under provincial jurisdiction; but after practising medicine for over thirty years I realize that one of the main elements in connection with the insecurity of our people is the high cost of hospitalization and the expensive diagnostic, medical and surgical procedures so often necessary without warning. I have often seen life savings wiped out in a few weeks or months of unexpected sickness or accident. I cannot help but express the hope that we shall soon see the day when there will be available to all our people a contributory health plan to meet the cost of major sicknesses and accidents. We have many group plans that are fine so far as they go, but they are either not available or are not easily available to the large majority of our people. The statement of policy adopted by the general council of the Canadian Medical Association on June 14, 1949, reads in part as follows:

The Canadian Medical Association hopes that the provincial surveys now being conducted will provide information likely to be of value in the elaboration of detailed schemes.

The Canadian Medical Association will gladly co-operate in the preparation of detailed schemes which have as their object the removal of any barriers which exist between the people and the medical services they need, and which respect the essential principles of the profession.

Canada must immediately take her place in the program of increased rearming for defence, not only for our own security but for the collective security of all free nations. We commend the efforts of our land, sea and air transport forces in the Korean war. We are pleased to note that plans are under way to meet our obligations under the North Atlantic treaty by organizing an integrated force to serve under General Eisenhower in western Europe.