

The Address—Mr. Hollingworth

good-will mission, a task for which, in my opinion, he is pre-eminently fitted. I believe it was Sir Winston Churchill who called Canada the linchpin between the United Kingdom and the United States. I suggest that Canada has a new and equally important role, namely that of being the interpreter between the commonwealth countries of the Far East and the United States. I say Canada is peculiarly suited for this assignment for these reasons. Our traditional and close friendship with the United States needs no emphasis. Indeed, we are happy to welcome to Canada today the distinguished President of the United States. President Eisenhower has been a good friend of Canada both in war and in peace, and we extend a most cordial welcome to this head of a generous and warmhearted nation.

Again, India, Pakistan and Ceylon have been traditional friends of ours. We are happy that they are members of the commonwealth family. We have done a great deal in helping them, through the medium of the Colombo plan, to develop their basic industries and natural resources. Again, Canada enthusiastically supported, through the delegation at the United Nations, the admission of India to the political conference on the Korean settlement because of the outstanding contribution made by India in bringing about the armistice. In short, India and indeed the world know we are interested only in promoting good will. We have no axes to grind. As we have always done, we will continue to go before the world court of public opinion with clean hands; and that is an asset beyond price.

Finally, we realize that although India, Pakistan and Ceylon have a great deal to learn from us in technical knowledge, so also have we a great deal to learn from their ancient cultures, with their emphasis on the great qualities of heart and mind. I am sure that the visit of our Prime Minister to India's great leader, Prime Minister Nehru, and to the other prime ministers, will be fruitful in cementing friendly relations with the western world.

Let us pass on to the domestic scene. Our country is still enjoying a high level of employment, and there is reason to believe that the gross national product for 1953 will be one to one and a half billion more than the record-breaking total of \$23 billion in 1952. Our export trade is continuing on a high level, and although there are some storm clouds appearing on the southern horizon yet it is comforting to note that the official policy of the United States administration is opposed to impeding further the flow of international trade.

[Mr. Hollingworth.]

Our government still believes that the free exchange of goods among nations and the further development of trade are among the best assurances of continuing Canadian prosperity. In my opinion one of the surest means of maintaining our healthy economic existence is to keep that great engineer of the Canadian industrial revolution, the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe), at the throttle of the Canadian economy.

To bring greater security to Canadian citizens in the fields of housing and health the government has taken definite steps in the last few years. Substantial funds have been allocated toward the construction of new hospitals and the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin) recently announced additional new grants over the next five years, a substantial part of which will be channelled into laboratory and radiological services for combating such dread diseases as cancer and tuberculosis.

All these were items of the new health program announced last spring; but now, as part of the progress the government is always making in the field of public welfare, I note that assistance is to be granted to totally disabled persons. I am sure the house and all Canadians will welcome this announcement, realizing that it rounds out an already generous rehabilitation program. Three or four provinces already make substantial provision for their disabled citizens, and it is to be hoped that the remaining provinces will be prepared to participate in this joint federal-provincial program.

I view all these grants as a necessary condition precedent to the establishment of a national health insurance plan which will be worked out between the federal government and the provinces and between the medical profession and the federal and provincial governments.

The other matter of great importance to which I alluded is housing. The demand for housing continues to be prodigious, notwithstanding the large number of houses being built. To ensure the continual flow of mortgage funds, which have been reduced to a slow trickle in the last few months, by the established lending institutions, the government will bring in amendments to the National Housing Act and the Bank Act to empower the chartered banks and other lending institutions to make loans on insured mortgages. This is another financial measure which will be introduced by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) who, after bringing in seven budget surpluses in the last few years, is probably looking forward to another.

Mr. Abbott: Hear, hear.