

1948:—Inauguration of National Health Program—grants totalling about \$35 million annually for provincial health surveys, general public health, public health research, hospital construction, cancer control, crippled children, venereal disease control, tuberculosis control, mental health, etc., etc.

1949:—Amendments to the Old Age Pensions Act increasing amount of old age and blind pension to \$40 monthly. Amendments to the Family Allowances Act abolishing the "taux décroissant" in respect of fifth and subsequent children and reducing residence requirement from three years to one.

1950:—Amendments to Unemployment Insurance Act providing for supplementary benefits during winter months, January to March.

1951:—Old Age Assistance Act providing pensions on basis of need to persons 65-69 years of age at the rate of \$40 a month . . . increase in income ceilings to \$720 a year single and \$1,200 a year married.

Passage for Blind Person's Act making similar provision for the blind 21 years of age and over—income ceilings \$120 a year higher.

Amendments to Pensions Act and other veterans' legislation providing increased allowances for dependent orphaned children of deceased veterans.

1951, Fall Session:—As announced in the Speech from the Throne, legislation to provide universal pensions, free of means test, at the rate of \$40 a month to all persons in Canada 70 years of age and over with required residence qualifications. This will be entirely a federal measure. The number to benefit in first year more than 700,000; annual cost for the same year is estimated at \$343 million.

I should like now to refer to national defence.

The Canadian people are a happy people. Compare them with other people on earth and tell me which nation we could envy. Our vast territory is protected on three sides by oceans, bounded on the south by the most powerful republic in the world. Unlike what is happening elsewhere, instead of being dangerous and disquieting, this neighbourhood is a factor of security. For close to 150 years we have been living at peace with our neighbours and on neither side is our boundary, four thousand miles in length, fortified or guarded. Evidently, at times, this neighbourhood causes difficult problems between us but we study them in a spirit of understanding and justice, and we abide by the decisions of our international commissions. In two world wars our sons, fighting side by side, have shed their blood on the same battlefields for the defence of the same cause.

This has further increased and strengthened the friendly understanding which has long existed between our two nations.

We are constantly uncovering new wealth in our soil, though yet its surface has barely been scratched. Our yearly production runs into billions of dollars and far exceeds our actual needs. Because of the volume of our export trade, we have achieved quite a high standing among the great nations of the world.

The Canadian people owe their origin mainly to two races which, since the beginning of the Christian era, have brought the greatest amount of credit to mankind. They are still receiving contributions from all the countries of Europe. We therefore benefit from European culture, Greco-latin culture, enriched by twenty centuries of Christianity. We enjoy a large measure of political and religious freedom and our parliamentary institutions are a source of content for our peaceful and disciplined people. If an example were needed of the harmony that exists in Canada, would it not suffice to recall that, since the beginning of the present century, two French Canadian Catholics have been elected Prime Ministers of this country by English-Protestant majorities: Sir Wilfrid Laurier and our present Prime Minister, the Right Honourable L. S. St. Laurent. Again I say the Canadian people are a happy, free and united people.

They are also a generous people. When the liberties and the way of life of the western world were threatened by unjust aggression Canadians, upon being called, answered: "Ready, aye ready!" Immediately they raised forces and rushed to the assistance of our mother countries: both the old and the new. This very day, some of our soldiers are fighting in Korea; while others are stationed in Europe. This Canadian generosity was very graciously emphasized, the other day, by our charming Princess when she said: "By dedicating yourselves to righting wrongs and errors in far off lands, you have set yourselves up as the knights errant of our present tragic world". A true and very apt phrase, well depicting the feeling which has guided Canadian policy, especially since Canada's part in international affairs has taken so much importance.

But this abundance of wealth which I have mentioned, this liberty, this political stability, this culture, these ways of life, these institutions, in short, this national heritage we owe to divine Providence and to our ancestors, all this is now seriously imperilled.

(Text):

The victories achieved in 1945 over the aggressors, we welcomed with great hopes