

whom I could refer them. I know that some provinces have legislation for the assistance of their disabled, but I trust that all provinces will co-operate with the federal government's plans and program.

The proposed measures to broaden the supply of mortgage money, which will enable people with low incomes to build their own homes, are another step in the goal towards providing a house for every Canadian family that wants one. That certainly is a forward step in Canadian welfare. We know how important it is for people to be properly housed, and in the final analysis these measures will result in a saving to our country because of improved conditions in home life.

The fishermen's insurance which was recently inaugurated by the federal government does away with much of the economic hazards for the fishermen from our coasts who "go down to the sea in ships" to make their living. I am well aware of this, for I was born and bred on the shores of Northumberland Strait and I know that, besides the physical hazards, fishermen are exposed to economic hazards. In a big storm, for instance, many men might lose their whole life savings. For that reason I believe that the further plans to assist fishermen, as forecast in the Speech from the Throne, would be welcomed very warmly in our Atlantic provinces, at least.

I think we all realize that the future peace of the world depends a great deal on the improvement of living conditions for the teeming millions of people in the East and, therefore, we expect that, as stated in the Speech from the Throne, we shall be called upon to contribute further assistance for relief and rehabilitation, for technical assistance and for continued participation in the Colombo Plan. I know we shall all be interested to learn the views of the Prime Minister when he returns from his trip after visiting the countries which we have already assisted under this plan.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mrs. Fergusson: Honourable senators, I do not propose to discuss at this time all the items in the Speech from the Throne, but I hope that at a future time I may be able to make some further comments in this chamber on these matters. Because I feel that my appointment both to this house and as the seconder of the motion for an Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne is a recognition of my province of New Brunswick as well as of women, I would like to tell you very briefly that my province is undergoing what could almost be called a second

youth. A number of quite recent developments have brought that about, and I know you will be interested to learn that in most of these developments the federal government has played a very large part by the assistance it has given us.

You will remember that in the middle of the nineteenth century New Brunswick was very, very prosperous. That was due to our forests, which contained large stands of tall pine trees, from which we secured masts for the King's ships and lumber to make wooden ships. In the middle of the nineteenth century our city of Saint John was the fourth largest ship-owning port in the whole world. But the days of wooden ships—those days when it was said that New Brunswick was noted for wooden ships and iron men—are gone. There is no demand for our wooden ships any more, but there certainly seems to be still a demand for our men, for we find them in outstanding positions throughout Canada, the United States and in other parts of the world. When ships no longer required masts, and were built of steel instead of wood, our prosperity flagged. It was revived by the growth of the pulp and paper industry, which certainly gave an impetus to our economy. We were getting along very well with that industry when we were attacked by the spruce bud-worm, a great enemy of our forests. We are fighting this despoiler of our wealth by large aerial spraying operations that we trust will eliminate the enemy. These operations are being carried on by the provincial government, the federal government and the lumbering interests, each contributing one-third of the cost. We certainly are hoping to win the battle of the bud-worm, and that the invader, the spruce bud-worm, will be entirely repelled.

Last year the value of our forest products amounted to \$165 million. Our potential output is much greater than that, but we do not have the markets to absorb it. For that reason we are very hopeful that some plan may be worked out for the convertibility of sterling, because that would again open for us the market for pit props and long lumber in the United Kingdom.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mrs. Fergusson: Now, although we have always been dependent on the forests for our basic prosperity, we have tried to build up other resources. And obviously we have had some success, for notwithstanding that our markets for lumber products are at a very low ebb, our economy is reasonably buoyant. However, to develop, we must