

an amount of material, the cost of which was fully equivalent of all that we paid out on behalf of our own forces.

And now may I, in speaking again about our defence forces, compliment the government upon the decisive steps which have been taken in recent months to reorganize the permanent defence forces of this country. In these modern days we have high ideals for the organization of international peace and world government. Great strides have been made, but greater steps have still to be taken before we can be assured that the United Nations will be able to carry out that lofty mission.

From the earliest days of tribal history the first responsibility of organized government has been the defence of the community. Under modern civilization we have learned in our national life the efficacy of the rule of law in preserving internal peace. Humanity aspires to the establishment of a rule of law by the nations, and I hope that Canada will always be, as it has been to date, in the forefront of the effort to organize international peace. Until that goal has been attained, we must still think of the problems of national defence.

If there is one lesson that we have learned in recent years, it is that the problems of defence are one and indivisible. There is no separate problem of army defence, or navy defence, or air defence. All these various arms and weapons minister to the same fundamental purpose.

The programme initiated by the recent Minister of National Defence, now the Minister of Finance—and which has been formally acted upon by his successor, the present Minister of National Defence—of bringing the three fighting forces into closer co-operation and union, is of the highest importance. Each of the armed services has its proud traditions, and these will never be forgotten; but there must be trained experts in the service of the nation who are competent to appreciate the combined contribution that navy, army, aviation, science and industry can make to our national defence. The programme of co-ordinating and unifying our services, which has been begun, is one which I hope will be carried much farther.

And now may I return for a moment to some of the more immediate problems to which our attention has been directed in the Speech from the Throne?

For reasons to which I have already referred, it is gratifying to note that the government is giving major consideration to the promotion of trade. During the war years the value of our exports attained phenomenal proportions, and already, as was inevitable, the statistics

show a substantial decrease. But it is well to remember that the productive capacity upon which our phenomenal war exports were established is still in our possession. It is gratifying to note that although the shipments of war materials have been completely cut off, Canada's exports for the year 1946 were more than double her average exports in the five years preceding the war. For that five years our average exports were 884 million dollars. Last year they were 2,312 millions.

As to the peacetime record, I feel that the government is to be commended on their wonderful accomplishment in maintaining business and employment during the first post-war year. The change-over from war to peace conditions is reflected in the character of these exports. Our exports of wood and paper products increased from 488 millions to 625 millions. Aluminum and chemicals fell off sharply; but it is a healthy sign that even some of our mineral exports were greater in 1946—a year of peace—than in 1945, which was chiefly a war year. These increases were in lead, nickel and zinc. Many of us looked on nickel as purely a wartime product; but it is interesting to note that in 1946, a year of peace, nickel exports were greater than in the years before the war.

It is pleasing to note also the wide distribution of our Canadian products. Thus, I observe that our exports to China and to Latin American countries are showing a rapid rate of increase.

My own province of British Columbia is vitally concerned in these matters of trade. Our three great industries—lumbering, mining and fishing—are all export industries. Indeed, they contribute to Canada's volume of export trade in a proportion far in excess of the ratio of our population to the Canadian total.

To a very large extent the legislation affecting the lumbering and mining industries is provincial in character. Deep sea fisheries, however, come under federal jurisdiction, and I wish to commend the Department of Fisheries for its consistent and progressive policy of conservation. When we mine a mineral from the ground, that reserve of wealth is gone and, until prospecting discovers another source of supply, the country is physically poorer. When we cut down our forests, that wealth is also gone. This can be replaced in years to come by proper reforestation. When we take the fish out of the sea in too great quantities that resource is depleted; but by wise fishing regulations this resource can be preserved in perpetuity.

The value of the output of west coast fisheries for 1945 was more than \$44,000,000. During the war the British Columbia fisheries became