

*The Address—Mr. A. Gauthier*

the fresh responsibilities which they are called upon to shoulder as a result of Canada's growing importance in international affairs.

We learned recently that the St. Lawrence waterway project, which was approved in principle at the last session, has gone another step ahead in a short time through the establishment of a board of engineers whose task it will be to draft a request to be submitted to the international joint commission in connection with the hydroelectric development of the international section of the St. Lawrence river.

The speech from the throne indicates that it is the intention of the government to enact legislation concerning veterans' allowances. This leads us to believe that particular attention will soon be given to the Canadians who did their noble duty to defend our liberty and who surely deserve this testimonial of gratitude from the government.

Another measure forecast in the message read by the governor general provides for a larger contribution to the Colombo plan. In taking that step the government has two aims: to provide help for underdeveloped countries—which is also advocated by such authorities as His Holiness the Pope—and to contribute to the improvement of the material and moral situation of those nations, so that the economy of the whole world may benefit from this betterment.

All members have learned of the recent outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease among certain herds in Saskatchewan. The Department of Agriculture has immediately taken the necessary steps to check the disease. Let us hope that the livestock industry will not suffer too much from it and that the cattle market will again be as prosperous as in the past.

Everyone knows, Mr. Speaker, that Canada, along with other members of the United Nations, is constantly striving to attain its aim: the maintenance of peace in the world. We still have faith in conferences and negotiations, but I am sure all Canadians believe, more than they ever did before, that military power is the best deterrent to aggression.

In my opinion, to achieve that end we must apply all our human, financial and economic resources to such preparations. The proportion of our budget earmarked for defence services in the coming year will undoubtedly remain high, owing to the acceleration of our defence production program and the increase of our military forces.

May I be allowed to add a few words to the tribute which the hon. member for Westmorland (Mr. George) has paid our troops in Korea. By virtue of their high military accomplishments in that distant and forbidding land, where the integrity of the United Nations was most openly threatened, Canadians have, once more, shown their courage and ability to fight the enemies of freedom.

Communism is ever seeking the weak points in the bulwarks of freedom. It so happens that we have been entrusted with the protection of a part of these bulwarks. I am confident that, thanks to constant vigilance and unerring determination, we will yet see the day when the rule of fear and suspicion will be overthrown and when, once more, we will be safe from the threat of aggression.

A few moments ago I described the very great progress which has taken place in my district. But what has taken place there has been reproduced in the whole of Canada which is, at this moment, in the midst of a period of widespread economic expansion of which we may well be proud. Our forebears have had enough faith and foresight to build a great country. It is a good thing that, at this particular time in its history, this country happens to be led by the present Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent. Under his wise and inspired administration, Canada continues to make giant strides in the field of constitutional and economic evolution.

*(Text):*

On motion of Mr. Drew the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. St. Laurent the house adjourned at 5.30 p.m.