

that everything possible will be done to further their re-entry into civil life, and that provision is being made for the years that lie ahead so that in every way possible their interests will be protected. The project unfolded before our eyes of a great capital, to be a lasting tribute to those who gave their lives, or offered them, in the defence of freedom, as well as to those who worked so unselfishly at home, is I think an excellent one. I like also the suggestion of the mover of the Address (Hon. Mr. Robinson) that in lesser degree, perhaps, similar projects might be encouraged in various communities throughout the provinces.

It is natural that we should all be interested in the plans that are being made for as orderly a transition as possible from the very difficult, new, and extraordinary conditions that surround a country during a period of total war, back to the more normal conditions of peace. Then, of course, comes a thought which is uppermost in our minds—the hope that we can build better, so that the spectre of war will disappear. That, of course, involves our external relations.

The Speech says that in due course there will be presented what might be regarded as the first step towards the charter of the United Nations. There will be presented also legislation and plans which will have a direct bearing on our external relations, and which will not only seek to provide a surplus market for our products, but will endeavour to increase the flow of international trade by means of a stabilization of exchange and the removal of various impediments.

As to the field of domestic relations, I think all must agree that as we seek to improve relations among nations it is desirable that we should also seek to improve relations between the Dominion Government and the provincial governments, in order that our national machinery will function as efficiently as possible. It is essential that we recognize the diverse elements which go to make up this Canada of ours. To-day over 50 per cent of the people of Canada are descended from racial origins other than those of the British Isles. It seems to me that the recognition of this situation is a step in the right direction. It will in no way detract from the happy association that we enjoy in the British Commonwealth of Nations but it will increase our own national consciousness. All within our borders should be conscious of and proud of our nationality. This matter was referred to most eloquently by the seconder of the motion (Hon. Mr. Dupuis).

With some of the things that the honourable leader opposite said in his address I am in hearty accord. For instance, I think it was a splendid suggestion that on the occasion of the next Victory Loan campaign every possible bit of information as to the need for the money should be given to the public. It is always an excellent idea to tell the public all that can be told, but it seems to me especially important to do this in the coming campaign.

I am not in a position to discuss in detail my honourable friend's specific suggestion in regard to the single transferable vote. I think, however, the importance of the matter merits our serious consideration. I would go further than that. Perhaps we might consider not only the single transferable vote but the question of whether it is desirable to make other changes in our electoral machinery. I know of no group that is better equipped than the members of this honourable House, with their wide experience, to deal with these matters.

I want to thank my honourable friend for his reference to the quality of leadership that the government of the day gave during the war. I agree with him, but I would point out that that leadership was possible only because the people of Canada, irrespective of political affiliations, gave the Government whole-hearted support. In that regard honourable members opposite were shining examples. On every platform on which I spoke, both before and during the last election campaign, I expressed the view that though, the leadership given by the Government was good, the country's war effort was not attributable to the Government alone. I felt, and I said repeatedly, that as boys and girls drawn from households of every political faith in Canada had laid down their lives in defence of the country, any reference to the war effort from a political angle would be an insult to their memory. The war effort of Canada was the war effort of all the people.

Now, honourable senators, this country is faced with problems which, though different from those that confronted it during the war, are of tremendous seriousness; and I do not believe they will be dealt with successfully except through a continued national effort. Of course, it is inevitable that there should be some change in the public attitude. As my honourable friend remarked, there is a disposition on the part of people in war time to render every possible service in the common cause.

One of the important questions facing us to-day is price control. I can think of no more unpopular measure to have to enforce. Yet, honourable senators, bearing in mind what