

In its modern form the foreign missionary work of the churches can be classified in this way, although no one would suggest that public funds be used to subsidize the Christian mission. However, it is appropriate to observe that many people who are sent abroad in the interests of the missions, in fact, perform work of the character I now discuss, almost to the exclusion of their activity in the field of religion.

A Canadian engineer or a business executive who is sent by his company to explore a foreign mining property or a hydroelectric possibility is, in fact, rendering a form of technical assistance abroad. So, too, is the archaeologist.

Honourable senators, since 1961 an organized effort has been made to induce young Canadians to devote a few years of their lives to this work after they have acquired some professional competence at universities or other training schools. The agency which does this is known as the Canadian University Service Overseas—CUSO. It is now an associate committee of the Canadian Universities Foundation. CUSO now has some 200 volunteers abroad. There are 39 in Asia, 122 in Africa, 33 in the West Indies and seven in South America. Among them are teachers, agriculturists, doctors, nurses, engineers, foresters, social workers. Their modest pay is roughly equivalent to the pay of their counterparts in the host country.

Recruitment and selection is administered by the Ottawa office of CUSO in co-operation with some 40 faculty-student committees at as many Canadian universities. Placement is arranged in co-operation with authorities in the host country.

Some indication of the success of the plan derives from the fact that CUSO cannot keep pace with the demands made upon it. In 1961, the first year, 17 Canadian volunteers went out. This was increased to 62 the following year. In 1963, 98 were added and in 1964, 148. Some, of course, have returned. They have gone to some 23 countries. About one-third of the total are French speaking.

The CUSO undertaking was originally financed by local appeals in various parts of Canada. In 1963 a relatively modest campaign for funds was undertaken. In 1964 the Canadian Government provided substantial help in the form of transportation.

It seems to me that there is an imaginative appeal here for many able young Canadians. They will, of course, be trained to supply the most effective help possible to the people

among whom they will live. Nothing would be more futile than to send an underdeveloped volunteer to an underdeveloped country.

I have read a few of the reports made by some volunteers. Not only are they intensely interesting, but one is filled with admiration for the sacrifice and enterprise which they reflect. I am sure, too, that notwithstanding all the frustrations these young people experience, they will derive a great satisfaction from the help they give. However, they also do much for themselves. They are acquiring a graduate education on conditions and prospects in the lands they serve, lands with customs and practices vastly different in many cases from those they know at home. When they return to take up their life work among their own people, they will be in a position to inform and embellish Canadian public opinion in a way which could not otherwise have happened.

I think it fair to say that it is the CUSO experiment which will form the basis for a general approach to the same problem at home and abroad. Half a million dollars has been provided from External Aid funds. It will be undertaken by a corps of young Canadians, which the Speech appropriately calls The Company of Young Canadians. This name has an historic ring. When Canada was very much of an underdeveloped country itself, during the French regime, perhaps for a different purpose, "The Company of 100 Associates" was formed. Later, and especially in the Northwest under British and Scottish auspices, we had "The Company of Gentlemen Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay."

While this name is likely to be highly acceptable abroad, it may give rather special emphasis to the work which can be done in Canada. Within the federal jurisdiction alone, in respect of Indians and Eskimos, there is need for energetic effort.

The gracious Speech from the Throne also refers to a proposal to establish a Canada Assistance Plan. Honourable senators are well aware that a welfare program, because of the divided jurisdiction in this country, involves co-ordination between the provincial and federal authorities. What appears to be required at this time is a co-ordinated approach to public assistance.

The welfare field is now a patchwork quilt. There is the Old Age Assistance Act of 1951, the Blind Persons Act of the same year, and the Disabled Persons Act of 1954. These are