

the eight or ten others a priority program was set up for the Veterans Affairs Committee of the House of Commons, and that priority program was followed.

First there was the Veterans Insurance Act. A deadline for eligibility under this act had been set for 1958 and this was extended to 1962, and since 1958 some \$18 million more insurance has been taken out.

The Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act was amended and through these amendments many children are receiving benefits now who otherwise would not receive them. As honourable senators know, loans were increased to \$20,000 under the Veterans Land Act. This is of great benefit to veterans on the land. As I said a moment ago, it was the intention to take up this review and amend the Pension Act when these other acts which seemed to be more pressing were attended to. I might also point out that the Pension Act and the War Veterans Allowance Act were both amended in 1957. There had only been three amendments to the Pension Act between 1920 and 1957. So I am pleased and not surprised that the Pension Act is to be amended at this session.

No Speech from the Throne seems complete without reference to the commonwealth. We agree that the commonwealth has continued to demonstrate its vitality. Nigeria was welcomed to full commonwealth membership. Speaking of Nigeria, while comparisons are sometimes odious, we think of the easy manner in which Nigeria accepted nationhood as compared with the Congo. We also think of Malaya in this respect. Great credit is due, I believe, to the British people and the system which they have followed in assisting these countries to nationhood. Great Britain educated the people of Nigeria as she helped to educate the people of Malaya. She provided these countries with a civil service, and these countries were not encouraged to accept nationhood until such time as they were properly prepared to take such a step.

The Prime Minister of this country has emphasized Canada's connection with the older members of the commonwealth. May I say that the oldest and strongest ties are with the member nations of the commonwealth, in which the Prime Minister believes we must play an ever-increasing and important part. Never in this history of the world has there been an organization comparable to the commonwealth for the promotion of peace, freedom, justice and mutual understanding among the diverse peoples of the world. Canadians have a tremendous loyalty to and abiding faith in the commonwealth.

We in Canada are proud of the fact that, numerically speaking, the greater part of the commonwealth embraces nations in Asia and

Africa which recently have achieved or, speaking of Africa in particular, are about to achieve, full and complete self-government. We are happy that these peoples share our common heritage of free institutions and we are anxious to assist them to develop their material resources and to prepare them for democracy. We are thankful for the bridgehead of mutual trust and understanding that the commonwealth ties maintain between them and us, and we hope they will all remain in the commonwealth. Certainly we in Canada will be the last to forsake our common heritage. Nor do we cling to this common heritage for material gain, but rather for a better understanding among all peoples everywhere.

We believe that better understanding can be brought about by education, technical assistance, sympathy and consideration for the problem of these people newly arrived in the commonwealth who have not had the same opportunities as we have had—these people whose hundreds of years of history and tribal government have not been along democratic lines. They must be helped and taught. Education and technical aid are needed by the new commonwealth nations of Africa more than anything else. Canada, I am sure, is prepared to do her part in this connection.

As to world affairs and peace, there is not time to discuss those great problems which trouble the minds of statesmen and disturb the peace of the world. Peoples everywhere are watching, waiting and hoping that success may be obtained in reaching the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control. No nation is working harder to attain this end than Canada. No representative at the United Nations Assembly is giving it more practical attention than our Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green, advised and assisted by the Prime Minister of this country. I wish to take this opportunity of telling them how much we, and I am sure all people in Canada, appreciate their efforts and great contribution toward building a true and durable peace. It seems an almost impossible task, but all reasonable and sensible people realize it must be accomplished if civilization is to survive. In the meantime, and until this is accomplished, the efforts of the free nations in building up their deterrent forces to war must be maintained. That is, and has been, the policy of the Canadian Government, and it was made very clear by General Pearkes on August 4 last in the other place, as reported in the Commons *Hansard*, page 7554. He said:

The first of these, the deterrent, is brought about by the consequences of a