

Sir William Osler, one of Canada's most famous men, an internationally known physician, once said:

"Humanity has but three great enemies: fever, famine and war; of these by far the greatest, by far the most terrible, is fever."

While fever and hunger have not been banished, the Red Cross international organizations have succeeded in bringing diseases of man increasingly under control by arousing and mobilizing a world-wide social conscience and consciousness of the need to battle against disease and catastrophe.

Advancement of Science

In the last 50 years science has given new hope that these terrible scourges of fever and famine may be dethroned and has brought within man's grasp standards of living everywhere in the world far beyond anything yet attained, but at the same time has raised war to an instrument of annihilation for both victor and vanquished.

Furthermore, advances in medical science have brought about tremendous increases in population. In the 19th century the world population doubled, and in the 20th it will quadruple. To put it more clearly, the population of the world when I was a boy was 1,500,000,000; many in this audience will live in a world with a population of 6 billion people.

Such increases in population constitute an added challenge to mankind, for men everywhere are demanding new living standards, greater equality of opportunity and the hope of better things, rather than despair which has been the lot of so many through the ages. The greater the population, the greater the need of raising economic standards so that there will be sufficient for the needs of the additional multitudes of mankind.

It is under these circumstances that the battle for the minds of men is taking place between those who believe in freedom under law, and those who contend that communism is the hope of mankind.

Canada's Message

What is Canada's message? You from other lands have spent some time in Canada. You have seen our ways and our standards of living. You might be interested in some Canadian views. Canadians, like people of all nations, are interested in world affairs. Modern developments have made every other nation in the world a near neighbour for whom new responsibility has been created. It is recognized today, as never before, that the prosperity of any nation cannot be founded on the poverty of other nations.