

But when I got to Delhi I met the Ambassador of Afghanistan to India. He had heard of the incident and thanked me for expressing goodwill to the guard and also expressed his regrets that I was not visiting his country. He did that in the most perfect French, which I am sure the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming) would admire as much as I did. The drive up the Khyber Pass is most interesting because it reminds one of the centuries that the pass has been the gateway for invasion into southeastern Asia from the time of Alexander the Great right on down. We were very cordially received by the Khyber Rifles, whose mess is at the head of the pass. On the way up we met many of the tribesmen who were also most cordial, almost embarrassingly so. They presented me with two sheep. I was told that we did not have to go through the whole of the ancient ceremony. The ancient ceremony implied that the recipient of the sheep was to turn them back to be sacrificed and roasted immediately for a feast that was to be shared. However, Mrs. Roosevelt has established the precedent that it is quite sufficient to put your hand on their heads as a token of ownership, and then ask the donors if they will not excuse you from remaining for the other festivities because of your other engagements.

At Peshawar I met a friend of our Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner), a Mr. A.E. Palmer, who has been there for a couple of years as an agricultural expert. He knew all about what had taken place in the Lethbridge area, and is quite encouraging. He says that though they have good irrigated wheat lands, they have only been getting an average of ten to twelve bushels per acre, while in the Lethbridge irrigated areas the least they get is thirty-five bushels and it goes up to sixty. By selecting seeds he had been getting forty or more from demonstration plots. He is quite firmly convinced they are going to be able to bring in and demonstrate the adaptability of the kind of seed that will enable these people to double or perhaps treble the amount of wheat they get from the same land.

I think that is the kind of thing that is being done under the Colombo Plan and the Technical Aid Plan, which is most practical and appropriate. It is not possible for the production of this continent, even if half of it were turned over annually to the hundreds of millions in those countries, to make very much difference in their standard of living. Whatever is done under these plans can be added to the result of their own productive effort and the improvement of that effort, but it can be only the kind of addition that the oil fields are making to the economy of Alberta, which still has as its sound foundation the agricultural production of that great province.

Mr. Palmer is also firmly convinced that they can make sugar out of beets better and more profitably in the northwestern frontier province of Pakistan than they can make it out of sugar cane. He has convinced Mr. Sardar Rashid Khan, who is the chief minister of that province, that is probably so, and it is going to be tried out. Of course, they realize that growing beets is quite a lot of work. The work has to be done right down close to the ground, but these people do all their work sitting on their haunches so it is not going to be anything backbreaking to them to thin and weed rows of sugar beets.