

food they require; the remaining 60 per cent get from one-half to two-thirds of their requirements. The food they fail to get is of the protective kind, such as dairy and poultry products, fruits and vegetables. These are the products which grow best on irrigated land. In the second place, Canada needs a high level of production of food to exchange with other countries for commodities which we cannot profitably produce. Thirdly, we must contribute to the world food pool, from which unfortunate peoples can draw. In the 1800's the world population was one billion; now it is two and one-third billions. That is an increase of about one per cent per year, which means that approximately 50,000 new faces appear every morning for breakfast. To meet our share of the demand we must retain a high level of food production. There are no new agricultural frontiers available, so science must make greater use of the present supply of cultivated lands.

Canada is far behind the other nations in her irrigation program. As I have said, we have under irrigation about three-quarters of a million acres, compared with 1 million acres in Australia, 28 million in the United States, 8 million in Russia, 6 million in Egypt and many millions of acres in India.

Where water and food are plentiful people will go. They will move from the dry sections; returned soldiers, thrifty people, and immigrants, who will make good Canadians will locate in the productive areas. The population in the dry areas is about 3.5 people per square mile as against 29.7 in the irrigated districts. Think of what such an increase means to the life of the community, to the schools and to the churches.

These schemes for the irrigation of land will endure, and will be a great blessing for the people of today and of future generations. True, irrigation projects cost money, but during the '30s there was spent in Alberta alone some \$31 million for direct relief, \$13 million for relief works, and \$1 million for administration, a total of \$45 million, which would have gone a long way towards watering these dry lands. Aside altogether from the material aspect, such works should be constructed for the welfare, health and happiness of the people of Canada. During the growing season, in the dry areas there is much uncertainty, great anxiety and fear of want. Irrigation would do much to banish those fears and to bring courage and a feeling of confidence to many deserving people.

I close with an expression of hope and expectation that this new parliament, whose sessions are just beginning, will accomplish much. In the final analysis, the end and object of all legislation is to improve conditions in the homes of the people. This means

that we should adjust affairs within our borders so that benefits and blessings can be evenly distributed; that we should assume our full responsibility in external affairs, and that at the present time we should extend all possible help to that little island across the north Atlantic, that Mother of Nations, whose economy has been so shaken by the stress and strain of the two recent world wars.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. A. K. Hugessen: My first word will be one of warm and heartfelt congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, on having attained the distinguished office which you now hold. Knowing you as I do, and having had that privilege for several years, I am quite certain that you will add dignity to your office. My familiarity with your essential fair-mindedness, Mr. Speaker, prompts me to go further, and to say that I forgive you in advance should you at any time during this parliament find it necessary, in the course of your duties to call me to order or to rule against me on a point of procedure.

Honourable senators, my next word must be one of special appreciation to the mover (Hon. Mr. Godbout) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Petten) of this resolution. I am sure that all of us, and in particular those who have served in this assembly for some years, agree that they have fulfilled their functions as admirably as they could have been fulfilled. With regard to the honourable senator from Montarville (Hon. Mr. Godbout) well, we know him in Quebec. He is my old provincial leader: we have fought election battles together. When, a few days ago, the honourable senator got up to open his remarks, we from Quebec knew what to expect; and we got what we expected—a speech clear, persuasive, forceful, eloquent, conveyed with that beauty of language and that courtesy of bearing which marks the man. I can assure the honourable senator that he is a most welcome addition to this chamber.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Hugessen: With regard to the honourable senator from Newfoundland (Hon. Mr. Petten) I would add my voice to all those other voices—and there are 13,000,000 of them, from Halifax to Vancouver—which welcome him and his province into our confederation.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Hugessen: I listened with keen delight to his speech, both in its historical and its descriptive parts. I was particularly impressed by two of the statements he made. The first, his description of the trials and persecutions which beset Newfoundland in