

great nation may prove the strengthening bulwark against the fuller onset in the Orient of the curse of Communism.

The outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the West is a misfortune to the livestock producers of Canada, and indeed to the entire country. No one was intentionally to blame. Fortunately, veterinary science has progressed in keeping with medical science, and so we can hope for a complete and early extermination of this disease and the restoration of all trading in livestock, with a profitable American market.

We read in the Speech from the Throne that a portion of the Canadian Army now forms an effective part of the force of the North Atlantic alliance in Europe, and we are glad to learn that at the meeting just concluded at Lisbon on February 26 last, agreements were signed by the foreign and finance ministers of fourteen North Atlantic countries to arm Germany and put into force, in high gear, a massive western defence build-up. Blue prints were drawn for a master plan for defending the West against Communist aggression, for streamlining a non-military headquarters in Paris to work at the side of Supreme Military Command, and General Eisenhower is being provided with fifty divisions and 4,000 aircraft, which force is to be doubled in two years.

We are happy to note that in spite of wars and inflation, wet grain crops, an epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease which is a calamity of national importance—in spite of all these misfortunes, and probably some others that have not been numbered, our country enjoys a bountiful prosperity. Many nations in the world would be happy to share even a part of our good fortune. Industries are all busy, our national production and our national income have exceeded all records. In other words, Canada is in a financially sound position, and growing daily stronger and greater. A country that much less than a century since was but a colonial possession of Empire has now become an independent and equal member of the British Commonwealth of Nations; the senior nation after the United Kingdom, and about sixth in world importance. Our foremost men in industry, science, business, politics and national defence are seized of a fine spirit of loyal national service and surely we need have little fear for the future of our country.

Hon. L. M. Gouin (Translation): Honourable senators, it is a signal privilege for me to second the resolution which has just been so aptly proposed. My first remarks will be words of congratulation and of thanks, but also of regret. At the outset, I wish to thank my honourable friend, our devoted leader of the Senate, for having invited me,

in his own name and on behalf of our most distinguished prime minister, to accept the task which I have the honour of fulfilling at the moment. I am thereby given the opportunity of expressing my approval of the text of the Speech from the Throne and of asking my colleagues to approve, at this time, the truly Canadian policy, the wise and enlightened policy of the government which is directed with such admirable ability by a great statesman, the Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent. I am pleased to corroborate the expression of confidence so happily formulated by our colleague who has just spoken. I wish to congratulate him most wholeheartedly.

I must now, without further delay, proffer words of condolence, for these are days of national mourning. Our beloved sovereign passed away last month. The King of Kings called him to His mercy. Our monarch, who was a deeply Christian man, was, in truth, for all his subjects, a marvellous example of courage, of kindness and of devotion to duty. His life, which was so dignified and so well spent, will ever remain a source of inspiration and pride for all the members of the commonwealth. Very few men in the history of the world have left behind them such universal and heartfelt sorrow as His Majesty the late George VI. We will never forget the heroic role which he kept up so unflinchingly ever since the day when, as a naval officer, he took part in the victorious battle of Jutland. He showed his calm and simple heroism during the last war, when he remained with his people, in the very heart of London, notwithstanding the constant bombing of his capital city. He proved his noble and discreet heroism to the very end of the illness which was to tear him from our affection.

The memory of this very good man, the memory of George the Good will ever live on in our country, which in 1939 extended to him and to his charming wife a truly royal welcome.

Others before me have expressed, much better than I can, the condolences of our whole country to Her Majesty the Queen, to Elizabeth the Queen Mother, to Queen Mary, to the Princess Royal, and to all the members of the royal family. Most humbly, but most sincerely, I wish to add my own tribute of deepest sympathy.

Our constitutional monarchy is an admirable institution; it gives to our democracy the lustre of its own dignity and strengthens it by its own stability. Thanks to the Crown, our parliamentary system is assured of continuing uninterruptedly through thick