

moral assets of their children, and thereby safeguard their future. My reason for favouring these social measures is not only that they provide the poorer families with bread, but also that they will endow Canada with enormous wealth and contribute towards making it one of the greatest countries of the world. We need experts to develop our resources. We lack technicians and, we will have to train hundreds of them to develop the national resources of our country. Personally, I should like to see our own native sons take advantage of the facilities to be provided in order to enter these higher fields. For a while yet we will have to call upon technicians of other countries—and they are most welcome here because they will help to develop our own assets—but I would like to see the sons of our Canadian soil prepared for the task of contributing to the material and moral greatness of our country.

In addition to a good education, the people must enjoy good health to achieve this end. If we examine the statistics on the health of our country, we find that the population is healthy in mind in spite of living conditions that are still very primitive. I would like to ask my honourable colleagues to look over the health statistics more often. They will see how many people are in hospital and other institutions and how many will be dependent on the state for the rest of their lives. Many of those people could have been an asset to the country instead of a liability! As has already been stated by the prime minister, the federal government should intervene, not in order to supplant the provinces but to supplement their action. It is a duty which I would like the government to fulfil. It is necessary for the government to give financial help to the provinces in order to promote the rapid development of education, especially from a technical point of view. We need a great number of technicians to develop the resources of our country, and some provinces at least cannot cope with the task. With due respect for the supremacy of the provinces in the field of education, there should be no opposition, under the false pretence of autonomy, to the federal government giving them the necessary material help. Obviously this co-operation cannot go so far as to interfere in the choice or amendment of educational systems, but a way should be found to provide the necessary financial help without encroaching upon provincial rights. I shall cordially endorse any plan to provide such help to the provinces, not by interfering but by providing the necessary help, first for education and then for public health.

Honourable senators, I do not wish at this moment to hold your attention much longer.

I will have the opportunity of discussing these matters later on. I am neither an alarmist nor a pessimist. I am rather an optimist by nature. I have confidence in my colleagues, in the future and in my country, but I cannot but point out that there is now in the world and in this country a trend of thought which frightens me.

The people seem to think that agriculture, in Canada as well as elsewhere, is so prosperous that the farmer lives like a king because of the abundance of food which he enjoys. This is true to a certain extent in the case of a few specialized farmers, but not for all the farmers in Canada. If the value of agricultural products increased during and after the war, on the other hand, in many cases the cost of production increased much more. Taking into account the farm machinery which the farmer must keep and improve and his tremendous expenses, I am convinced that unless a greater effort is made by governments to promote the farmer's welfare, there will be a depression in this field. There are people in some countries who suffer the pangs of hunger. Farmers, therefore, must be encouraged to produce in greater quantities. However, they are reluctant to incur the expenses necessary to do this, and tomorrow, perhaps, we may have to feed hungry mouths. Honourable senators, in 1960, the world population will have increased by 200 million. It means for one thing that we will require 350 billion gallons more milk than what we produce today. Now, what is the situation of the dairy industry in Canada? Dairy cattle are shipped to the United States on account of the higher prices which our farmers get there. I do not wish to sound the alarm but to draw attention to the seriousness of the situation.

I note that the Speech from the Throne forecasts some legislation to enable the federal parliament to amend the constitution. I repeat that I am an autonomist, not because I took part in the political life of a particular province before becoming a member of this honourable house, but because I believe that only through strong provinces will we be able to build a strong country. If we grant autonomy to the provinces, how can we refuse the government of this country the same privileges? I am glad to see that Canada has made gigantic strides towards autonomy and economic sovereignty. Canada will make equal progress on the road towards judicial sovereignty. The country must be completely free to amend its constitution. This is a delicate matter which some may be surprised to see me touch upon, but it is a matter regarding which I do not think I need be afraid to express my views.

I have confidence in Canadians, in all Canadians. There are no territorial barriers