

said: "Our nationhood is not built on the superiority of a single race or of a single language. Canada was founded on the faith that two of the proudest races in the world, despite barriers of tongue and creed, could develop a common nationality. Without the ideal of equality among men, without the vision of human brotherhood, the Canadian nation would never have come into being".

Such words are comforting. They hold assurance that each racial group, through its special qualities, its educational system, its beliefs, its language and its tradition, will contribute to the greatness of the Canadian State. It is through emulation and not through assimilation that citizens of Canada—differing as to race, origin, language and traditions—will best serve their country's interests.

It is gratifying to note that the government is gradually doing away with the restrictions which, owing to the war, it has been compelled to enforce in nearly all spheres of economic activities.

One needs but to go out of the country to realize fully the value of the direction given to production and distribution of goods. Canada has thus been able to avoid a staggering increase in prices. She has avoided the inflation and economic slump which greatly affect people in other countries. Our economic situation is such as to be envied by more important nations, and it is admired by the whole world.

If these measures were necessary during the war, if it still is the duty of the government to maintain restrictions over the movement of products which remain scarce, it is nevertheless undeniable that these measures must remain exceptional and must be abolished as conditions return to normal.

It is very gratifying to note that such is the policy which the government proposes to follow. Restrictions must disappear as soon as possible. Bureaucracy, which was efficient and necessary during the difficult period, must make way for private effort. That is the policy forecast by the Speech from the Throne. It is a truly liberal policy for which the people will be thankful to the government.

I have no doubt that the government will soon lighten the still too heavy burden of taxation. The Canadian citizens have accepted willingly and without recrimination the great financial sacrifices which war has imposed on them. Repatriation and the maintenance and substantial help that we must afford to our veterans involve sacrifices which all are generously accepting. The social security measures which the country needed so much entail huge expenditures. I am nevertheless

confident that the government will be in a position to effect substantial reductions in all spheres; that they will make a serious endeavour to restore to family obligations the priority they deserve, and that they will also be able to lighten the burden of the people in the higher income brackets so as to promote the legitimate and necessary ambition which alone will permit every citizen, in his particular sphere, to achieve a maximum effort.

Many years have already elapsed since the governments of all countries have abandoned the doctrine of economic liberalism or straight capitalism, where competition was the very basis of the economy. The systems which can be adopted are not very numerous. Some countries have gone from straight capitalism to the socialization or nationalization of all property. The state has become the absolute master of everything and everyone. The citizens of those countries, from the most powerful to the lowliest, have seen their individual freedom sacrificed to the ideals of certain political groups. They have become mere cogs in the state's machinery. Education, culture, literature and art are only given the impulse which is useful to the policy followed by the nation's leaders. Private enterprise is sabotaged and traditions are set aside. From the standpoint of religion, the state becomes the golden calf before which each and everyone must bow.

Such are the abuses which have been perpetrated by some national leaders who are no longer living, and to which are still subjected certain nations which are endeavouring to foist them on the rest of the world. What a great lesson it would be for those who criticize the freedom guaranteed by our constitution if they were, even temporarily, subjected to the demands of those totalitarian groups! The misfortune of a too great number of people alone makes possible the establishment of such systems. The exaggerations of economic liberalism had incited the masses to choose political systems which seemed to them an improvement.

Other leaders—our own—have rather sought to remedy that situation by improving the lot of the majority while leaving to all that measure of freedom without which no people can develop and prosper.

The security measures which the leaders of this country have implemented for the benefit of the people, the relief they have brought to the hardships which breed revolt, have made possible an appreciation of the basic principles of our domestic policy. Undoubtedly, perfection has not been achieved. There are still some situations to be remedied and evils to be cured. However, our policy