

External Affairs

girls was a Canadian girl on the Canadian delegation. In the field of beauty we have nothing to be ashamed of; rather we have much about which we can be intensely proud.

I would also like to say a word about the permanent staff. It is very easy for a delegate to go to the United Nations with a roving commission and to enjoy life, but the boys who were down there for months on end and who attended sessions at nine o'clock in the morning and frequently worked far into the night deserve, I believe, the compliments and appreciation of the Canadian parliament and the Canadian taxpayers.

When I was a boy on the prairies we did not have sufficient money to support one particular church and we had itinerant preachers of all denominations. I do not mind telling you that 90 per cent of them were terrible, but just the same—

Mr. Knowles: Hear, hear.

Mr. MacDougall: I heard my hon. friend from Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) say, "hear, hear". I hope he is not referring to himself.

Mr. Knowles: Speaking from experience.

Mr. MacDougall: I recall my father telling me when I was a boy that when I went to a service I did not have to bother listening to a minister if he did not preach from a text. I feel that was rather good advice, and if I am going to take a text tonight it will be called "Potholes on the Road to Peace". I think that is very applicable.

Mr. Knowles: Especially in Ottawa.

Mr. MacDougall: "Potholes on the Road to Peace". Now, I wonder how I arrived at such a title?

Well, at the United Nations, as you know, there are great numbers of different types and races of people. When I speak of potholes on the road to peace I refer to the Middle East. You know without my telling you, although I wish to draw your particular attention to it tonight, the Arab world of the Middle East comprises approximately 1,500,000 square miles. What struck me as being particularly unenviable about various countries in that particular area was this, and I hope my hon. friends to the left will bear with me when I remind them of this fact. The great inhibiting factor in all that huge area, which is approximately cheek-by-jowl with any potential aggression from the Soviet, is what? First of all, it is instability of government. I would ask hon. members to listen to these facts. Jordan had 8 governments in 10 years, 50 governments in 30 years. Egypt had 15 governments in 10 years. Syria had 24 governments

[Mr. MacDougall.]

in 10 years. Lebanon had 17 governments from 1943 to 1954, 7 of those in the one year of 1952. Iraq had 50 governments in less than 30 years. By and large, in all those Middle East countries what do we find? We find there is practically no secondary industry. What industry there is in existence is that of agriculture. Here I should like to mention a word about the poor agricultural worker. I should particularly like to address these remarks to my good friends second to my left.

An hon. Member: The C.C.F.

Mr. MacDougall: They are always talking about the poor downtrodden farmer; he has nothing, he gets nothing but abuse—that is, those who do not spend the winter in Florida or in California. In the great majority of those countries the actual wage of the agricultural worker, who at the very best never works more than six to seven months out of the twelve, is the stupendous rate of 24 cents to 34 cents a day. From 85 per cent to 90 per cent of the people of the Middle East are suffering from three of the slow killers that beset humankind, namely Bilharzia, hookworm and trachoma. None of these diseases take the victim off suddenly like coronary thrombosis. Oh, no; they just sap the life out of him until he is ready to throw in the white towel. Lack of any initiative is the main feature of those poor victims of the diseases I have just mentioned. They are not diseases that are particularly applicable to those countries: they are tropical in nature and many of the tropical countries have them. But because of lack of sanitation, education and any kind of a standard of living worthy of the name, in those countries today we have victims who care little for the dawning of another day.

Furthermore, in those countries one finds something else that we in this house should bear in mind. Where the governments are formed, there is no sense of unity and there is no sense of loyalty. The gendarmes of the various governments are there not to protect that country or the people of that country but to protect the government.

An hon. Member: Do we have to listen to this?

Mr. MacDougall: You certainly do not have to listen; this is a free country. In addition, this instability of government breeds disloyalty. You have no national sentiment of loyalty in any of those Middle East countries, particularly those of the Arab world. As a result, you have complete chaos as far as unity of purpose is concerned, either of the people or of the governments thereof. Those that are out of power are constantly "on the make" to get into power; and when they