

of not less than \$50 to every Canadian of sixty and over, but in the light of the colossal gifts which we made to our enemies during the war, and to our friends in the same period—and in the giving, Mr. Speaker, made ourselves prosperous—the aggregate sum required to carry out the undertaking which we recommend in connection with old age pensions becomes quite commonplace. Some of my colleagues doubtless will deal with this subject more in detail when they take part in this debate.

There are other matters arising out of the throne speech with which I should like to deal, but I shall follow the example, the good example by the way, of those who have preceded me in this debate and cut my remarks short. Just allow me to say in conclusion that I have faith in this great land of ours, a land which I believe to be choice, above all other lands. I have faith in Canada and I believe that she can take her rightful place in the world community of nations and can in that world community of nations become a great power for good. I still have faith that Canadians will awaken to the needs of this most fateful hour in world history and apply the accumulated wisdom of the ages to avert the disaster of threatened victory of totalitarianism in the peace.

Some wise man has said:

Earth might be fair and all men glad and
wise
Age after age their tragic empires rise
Built while they dream; and in their
dreaming weep,
Would men but wake from out their
haunted sleep
Earth might be fair, and all men glad
and wise.

I look forward with faith to that day when Canadians will awake.

Mr. W. A. McMASTER (High Park): Mr. Speaker, a great many people will be surprised that I should intervene at this early stage of the debate, but I can assure you that the most surprised person is myself. That would not have been the case if those who are better fitted and who perhaps should have had the honour of intervening so early had been available. It just so happens, however, that they are not available and therefore I have been given this opportunity of addressing you. I do not think I could have addressed this house were it not for the feeling of elation I have had during the few days that I have been attending these sessions. I am a new member and after meeting the other members of my own party, many members of the other parties, some members of the senate and some officials in this building, I have

been so elated that I thought I could even make a speech to those assembled here to-night. Otherwise I might have assumed my ordinary attitude of indifference and indolence.

I must ask your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, because I have been a member for only a few days, having attended only two sittings, so that if I err in my manner of speaking or in anything I say while addressing hon. members, you will correct me. If you do I shall accept the correction with the best grace, hoping that as you learn the duties of your office from time to time I may take the easier course of learning mine by observing what you do in the Chair rather than by any hard work of my own.

I listened to the Prime Minister asking the indulgence of members and I recalled that this same indulgence was asked for during many years of the war. I believe that in nearly every case it was granted by those who perhaps did not entirely agree with the right hon. gentleman's method of conducting the war. During the war, however, they were willing to subordinate their own ideas in order that the war might be carried to a successful conclusion. Now that the war is over he is again asking our indulgence. May I say this to him. If at an earlier period of the war he had accepted the help of those who were just as earnest and anxious as he was to win the war, and who could give as much as he or I could, and the help of those who, in the way of actual participation in the war could have given more, his burden would not have been so great; I probably would not be here to-night, and the country as a whole, as well as history, would perhaps have placed him in a higher niche that it will because he did not seek the assistance of those who were willing to help him in the past.

The hon. member who preceded me has spoken about the Peace River district and has used, with reference to that district, words which at the beginning of the century were often spoken about Canada as a whole. In other words, he has spoken of the great material wealth and the fine population of the Peace River district. In the old days when we spoke about Canada we referred to the material wealth, the great resources, of this country, but we always emphasized more than anything else the fact that the people as a whole were the greatest asset of the dominion and that in the character of people they were, the future of Canada was wrapped up. I believe that is still so.