

The Address—Mr. Chatterton

river battle where Canadian troops distinguished themselves. This constituent has just written a book called "Blind Date", and it gives me pleasure to read the foreword to his book by Major General Hon. George R. Pearkes, V.C., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., lieutenant governor of British Columbia. This is what General Pearkes says in his foreword:

I am very glad John Windsor has told his story. He was a popular cadet at the Royal Military College and a promising junior officer in Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians).

His writing combines a unique style of drama and humour. It is a Canadian saga, told simply with great restraint. The result is vivid and moving; a truly remarkable piece of writing.

All his friends in Canada and England will be pleased, I am sure, that John has given this book to us from his generation.

I expect that the book will soon be in the library of parliament, and I commend it to all members of the house as a great effort by a blind Canadian veteran.

So far as veterans are concerned, the Prime Minister has made it clear on many occasions through many means that we shall never forget those who fought for their country, and those who were bereaved in the effort. It is therefore no surprise to see in the throne speech recognition of these worthy citizens. I note with satisfaction that the effective dates of the War Services Grants Act, the Veterans Land Act and others are to be extended. I suggest to the government that these statutory deadlines in these pieces of legislation create certain anomalies and inequities. When the time comes—we have until 1968—I shall make further representations on that score. We know that this type of legislation benefits not only the veterans but benefits Canada as a whole.

Having had considerable experience in the administration of veterans legislation I should like to make one or two suggestions. The resolution with regard to the Veterans Land Act has not been brought before the house as yet, and although it is indicated in the throne speech that the deadline will be extended, there is no reference to the further changes to be made. I hope there will be certain improvement, particularly to the Veterans Land Act. I point out to the government that the present \$10,000 limit in parts 1 and 3 of the Veterans Land Act is not as realistic now as it was a few years ago. In addition, the \$10,000 limit on advances under part 2 of the Veterans Land Act is inadequate and should be increased to the amount of the loan, as is the case under the National Housing Act.

I suggest also that, having a precedent where veterans who were not Canadians have received certain benefits even though they did not normally live here before the war, the government should give consideration to extending part II of the Veterans

Land Act to veterans of our allies who did not normally live here before the war. This feature does not involve any direct monetary subsidy, but it does encourage self-help. I know there are large numbers of allied veterans who would be very happy to be made eligible under part II of the Veterans Land Act.

Our senior citizens and our veterans, Mr. Speaker, have received some attention in the throne speech. However, there is another group of Canadians who I think are worthy of some attention. I refer to ex-civil servants and ex-armed forces personnel who were superannuated some years ago. I know that about four years ago this government introduced an adjustment in pensions which affected many of these people. I do believe, however, that many of them are suffering hardship. I know this government cannot do everything in five years, especially all that was left undone in 22 years, but I think these people may deserve further consideration from our government. I feel that in time this will be done.

The throne speech refers to some of Canada's activities in the international field. I am particularly impressed with the reiteration of the traditional policy of this government toward strengthening the commonwealth as an instrument of peace and freedom. It was most distasteful, Mr. Speaker, to hear members on the opposite side attempt to discredit the performance, as it were, of Canada in the international scene, to cast reflections and belittle the efforts of our Secretary of State for External Affairs. However, the rebuttal made by the Minister of Finance on January 24 and by the Minister of Veterans Affairs the next day was like a fresh breeze blowing over waters muddied by the opposition. I am sure Canadians as a whole will accept their version of our position in international affairs.

Vast distances and many differences lie between the island of Newfoundland and Vancouver island. I think, though, that the islands of Canada have at least one factor in common, that is a feeling almost akin to isolation and sometimes neglect. I am glad, therefore, for the people of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia when I see they will be receiving an automobile ferry service provided by the federal government. There are many people on Vancouver island who feel that under terms of confederation the federal government has a certain responsibility for providing transportation between the mainland and Vancouver island. I hope that this precedent on the Atlantic coast may in time be applicable on the Pacific coast.