

and more, in terms of forces—the forces that create or destroy international amity and goodwill.

Economic and social collaboration was always a useful and active part of the work of the league of nations. It is now proposed to expand into new fields and establish further special bodies to deal with particular problems. In almost all these aspects of economic and social activity, Canada will have a deep interest. As a great trading nation with a progressive and expanding economy, we are, from the point of view of markets and supplies, concerned with conditions all over the world. The assembly and the economic and social council will be central agencies of initiation and cooperation in this field. It will be clearly in the interests of Canada to participate fully in the work of these special bodies. Moreover, the humanitarian tradition which has played so worthy a part in our national life should give us a special interest in worldwide social betterment which the assembly and the economic and social council will seek to foster.

It is one of the proposed functions of the assembly "to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms". This is an aspect of the world organization which should never be forgotten. If this great war, and the last, have taught us anything, it is the truth that "we are members one of another, and that the freedom both of men and of nations is one and indivisible".

The new organization and its affiliated agencies should be able in time to sponsor long-term arrangements for human welfare.

Just here, I should like to say a word or two on one problem of human welfare with which the united nations are immediately faced. The retreating enemy has left behind him, in western and eastern Europe, starvation, disease, and an alarming shortage of the elementary necessities of life. This situation represents a critical danger to the recovery of liberated Europe. The reports reaching the government portray appalling conditions. Even for those who greeted with joy the expulsion of the Germans from their homelands during these last few months, from the point of view of food, fuel, clothing and shelter, this sixth year of war is the bleakest year of all. The privations of those still under German domination are even more terrible.

The united nations have pooled their efforts to build up their great armed forces. For some time to come, it will be in Canada's interest, no less than in the general interest, for all to continue to pool their efforts to make available food and materials for relief and rehabilitation.

Some activities of the proposed world organization in the field of human welfare are likely to be conducted directly under the supervision of the economic and social council. These may include the collection of statistical and other economic information, international health problems, and the control of traffic in narcotics. Such services would be for the most part a continuation of very useful activities previously directed from Geneva. Expert commissions are contemplated to study these and related matters, from the point of view of general welfare and utility, with the experience and wisdom of the world's best technicians at their service.

Apart from activities under the direct supervision of the world organization a number of large functional inter-governmental bodies have already been established and others are being considered. The proposals to be discussed at San Francisco should be considered in relation to these other very important agencies. These inter-governmental bodies would be related to the world organization by agreements reached between them and the economic and social council. Among those agencies is the international labour organization which has already existed for twenty-five years, and is a solid reality. In the very important fields of agricultural production and of nutrition, a constitution has been drawn up by an interim commission for a united nations organization of food and agriculture. The interim commission, of which Mr. L. B. Pearson is chairman, was appointed at the Hot Springs conference of 1943. Proposals were developed at the Bretton Woods conference for an international monetary fund and an international development bank. The setting up of an international agency to deal with problems of civil aviation is also well under way. Proposals for further specialized agencies are under discussion, all of much interest to Canada. These include the establishment of an international agency to deal with questions of commercial policy, designed to assist in removing, by agreement, impediments to trade, and in promoting uniform customs practices, lower tariffs, the removal of exchange controls and similar matters. Proposals for the international regulation of cartels and for the adoption of measures to regulate the prices of certain raw materials are also under consideration. This is not an exhaustive enumeration.

If all proceeds as it is hoped it will, it may be found that, within a few years, there will be six or eight large international bodies performing functions which are beyond the capacity of any one nation or small group of nations. Such international agencies would