

One would rather not give even a single thought to the kind of disaster that would result from a world war or even a limited war waged with nuclear weapons. Nations have devised means of defence and attack so deadly that today their main concern is to find measures in order that they will never be forced to resort to such weapons.

But peace alone is not enough. There is the question of atomic fall-out which is certainly one of the most disturbing at the present time and we are happy to learn that the proposal submitted by the Honourable the Secretary of State for External Affairs to the United Nations received unanimous approval. Canada's Government recommends the taking of samples which would be analysed as efficiently as possible for radio-active particles that are now present in the atmosphere and in the ground as well as in our food.

In a report submitted to the French Academy of Science, last October, five scientists: an American, three Japanese and a Frenchman—(Messrs. Linus Pauling, Hideki Yukawa, Shoichi Sakawa, Sin-Itiro Tomonaga and Jean-Pierre Vigier)—predicted that over a million people would die from radio-activity that has been given off so far by explosions of nuclear bombs. Moreover, they predicted that 1,250,000 abnormal children would result from this same deadly radio-activity.

Can it be that those people are exaggerating a bit? Maybe they are over-pessimistic. Nevertheless in Canada and the United States scientists are constantly examining food and soils lest there should be any dangerous amount of Strontium 90. We are told that until now we have been safe from that danger. But will the situation remain as it is now?

Reports that "there is no danger at present" are not lacking. It is however obvious that our poor human race, like a sorcerer's apprentice, runs the risk of being the victim of a power that it has released but can no longer control. Besides, the wish to restrain or abolish completely nuclear experiments often expressed by many statesmen, convinces that Canada is duty bound to do everything in order to have these experiments discontinued and in order that some kind of international control be established.

I know that our country is in a better position than any other country to play the part of peacemaker. Everyone knows that Canada has no axe to grind nor desire for aggrandizement. Our country has always lived on excellent terms with her neighbours. And

up to now on the international scene Canada has shown a constant and unselfish devotion in serving the great cause of peace. There is therefore no reason to be astonished that throughout the world the general feeling is that Canada will exert a strong conciliatory influence at the Conference that will take place in Geneva next March when we will begin negotiations with the U.S.S.R. with a view to applying a policy of general disarmament. No one can work for a better cause than that of peace and good will.

And now, what about the economic situation in our country? The Speech from the Throne mentions an improvement during 1959 and expresses optimism for 1960. It refers to "favourable prospects". The Honourable the Minister of Trade and Commerce has confirmed this forecast in his "Review of Canada's economy in 1959 and outlook for 1960".

In regard to prospects for 1960, one can read in particular the following:

What is presently known of investment plans for 1960 suggests that capital outlays by the business community will increase considerably. A stepped-up rate of expansion is indicated in the commercial sector, in manufacturing and possibly in some utilities also. The level of outlays in other fields of investment will depend in large part upon the physical and financial resources which they are able to command—

"Prospective growth in both exports and investment will help to sustain the current upward trend of personal incomes and contribute to further strengthening in other market sectors. The consumer market in particular gives promise of continuing buoyancy in the period ahead.

"These considerations suggest that total demands upon the economy are likely to continue to increase, resulting in a further expansion of output and employment. While productive resources have become more fully utilized over the past year, there is still a considerable amount of available capacity in most industries. In addition, manpower and plant capacity are growing steadily. In these circumstances, it would appear that a production increase of considerable dimensions could take place without giving rise to excessive pressure upon productive capacities. At the same time, it is important that demands be kept within the scope of available resources.

For his part, before the Canadian Club in Toronto a few days ago, the Minister of Finance gave us a warning which is thought provoking. He invited the Canadian people to avoid in this country the experiment of inflation which can only lead to disaster. A greater prosperity is ahead of us, but we must achieve stabilization of cost prices.

A steady rise of the latter might well have serious results. Moreover, the Honourable the Minister of Finance intimated that the Government will enforce the necessary restrictive measures to offset the latent threat of inflation.

Canada needs new capital to carry on its economic expansion. Last year 80 per cent