

The Address—Mr. Low

I quite realize that since the war ended in 1945 Canada had advanced a grand total of \$1,763,900,000 in financial assistance to other countries up to March 31 of this year. Of that figure \$1,185 million represent loans to Great Britain, all of which will be recoverable in the future. In addition there were certain direct credits that were made available to some of the European countries. I will not detail those at the moment. In addition to those credits made available to certain European countries, contributions sent to the United Nations agencies have totalled \$203,100,000, which includes \$154 million advanced to UNRRA, \$12 million to post-UNRRA relief, \$15 million for the Colombo plan assistance to India, \$10 million for assistance to Pakistan, and just over \$1 million contributed by Canada to the technical co-operation payments plan for India, Pakistan, Ceylon, and Greece. Some \$325 million has been contributed by Canada for military aid to NATO countries. That was very largely a transfer of existing stocks of armaments and equipment which the Canadian army had been keeping as a mobilization reserve. Actually every Canadian has contributed \$46.40 in these forms of aid to other countries, which is not recoverable.

Now, sir, Britain has been the biggest beneficiary of the Canadian assistance I have outlined, and I am not pleading that we continue to help Britain in the ways I have cited and which have been the pattern since 1945. I think we must consider much greater aid to the underprivileged countries under the Colombo plan and the technical co-operation arrangements. I much prefer to see us drop sacks of wheat and food materials into these underprivileged countries to help them live in some measure of happiness and contentment, than to be draining off our production in the form of arms and shells to destroy our fellow men in warfare. In my judgment food can be made a far more effective weapon than atom bombs; and using that weapon, peace could be brought to this world much more quickly than by all the military campaigns that could ever be fought.

We think there are very worth while, physically and financially possible measures that can be taken by Canada to help these countries that are in need and to help Britain and other parts of the commonwealth get on their feet, particularly Britain. We have believed and asserted over the past seventeen years—and by “we” I mean the Social Credit group—that the British commonwealth of nations offers the only assurance of bringing balance once more into a world of trade that has become seriously out of balance. What the government seems to have forgotten is that our great neighbour to the south, the

United States of America, has within her borders as much as 50 per cent of the world's total industrial capacity. This makes her a colossus both in the industrial world and in the world of trade.

Ever since the United States became the industrial giant she is, she has had a tendency to hog the channels of trade and has consistently refused to balance her trade with the rest of the world. This has brought about a condition under which the other countries of the world have not been able to secure enough American dollars to be able to buy from the United States the things they needed. As a consequence the streams of trade have to quite a large degree been dried up; and perforce, the United States has had to resort to Marshall plans and gifts of great quantities of goods to other countries to make up for what normal trade ought to be doing.

If the British commonwealth of nations with its widely scattered territories, its tremendous production, and its very large population will revitalize their sinews into strong unity it can become the one factor which is capable of bringing order and balance into an unbalanced world of trade. Canada should be taking the lead in this revitalization. Thus far since the war the Liberal government of Canada has been very diffident in its approach to commonwealth matters and has been an abject follower, instead of the bold and courageous leader that everyone had the right to think it should be.

When the Canadian representatives sit down at the London conference they ought to be guided by the determination to restore our traditional trade patterns, and not worry their heads off about this business of convertibility of currencies. We in this group feel that every effort should be made by Britain and by us to help Britain once more get investments in other parts of the commonwealth. Britain should even now be doing something about investments in Canada. There is still ground floor space in such things as the petroleum industry where, specifically, I will name the Athabasca tar sands. If Britain will make a supreme effort she can get hold of a block of those sands and set out, like some of the other countries, to perfect methods of separation so that eventually she will contribute to her own and the world's supply of petroleum products. As I say, other countries are getting into it, and I think Canada should be doing everything possible to help Britain to get into the oil development in this country. In due time the investment will pay off handsomely. The thing is physically possible, and we Social Crediters have always claimed that what is physically possible can be made