

who live well in our cities. This means many things: rural electrification, soil conservation, educational opportunity, attractive community life and ever-widening fields of cooperative endeavour. Because we can produce in great abundance farm commodities as well as many other natural products, and manufactured goods too now, Canada is vitally interested in world trade.

During the war much of our overseas trade has been in the form of mutual aid. These gifts received the almost unanimous support of parliament and country, but they cannot be a permanent policy. If we are to dispose of our surplus food and products abroad in the future, we shall have to receive goods in payment for them. In an intelligent economy this should be welcomed, because the more goods we receive in exchange for the goods we produce the higher our standards of living should become; but it will be some time before those who eat our food will be able to send us goods in return. With them we have been engaged in a common war effort; and we must join in the world-wide task of reconstruction. No nation, I should like to say, can be allowed to sink because of the generosity of her war effort. Indeed, no nation and no people can be permitted to languish in poverty if the other nations are to remain prosperous. Thus, speaking for our party, we are prepared to support arrangements for immediate and substantial loans to Great Britain and others of our suffering allies. These loans might be made without interest and repayable in securities or goods to be arranged at later dates. Indeed, such agreements are merely an application of a policy of enlightened self-interest.

This parliament will be required, as the Prime Minister said, to deal with matters of international importance. I note that the charter of the united nations which was signed at San Francisco is to be submitted for approval. That, I am certain, will be accorded. We shall also be asked to approve a measure to provide for Canada's participation in the Bretton Woods agreement for the establishment of an international monetary fund and a bank for reconstruction and development. In view of its important and complicated proposals I suggest that this agreement be placed before parliament at the earliest possible date, and referred forthwith to the banking and commerce committee, where the expert advisers who were present at Bretton Woods may be thoroughly and properly examined. After making some study of the proposals I am inclined to think that, balancing the good features against those which appear to be less desirable, the agreement may assist international exchanges and

[Mr. Coldwell.]

make more adequate provision for international credit. But before we are asked to give it final approval careful inquiry should be made into its proposals and its implications. This can scarcely be done in a debate in this house or in committee of the whole, since the opinions of expert advisers would not be available here. The agreement should be studied by the banking and commerce committee, and I am not only suggesting but asking that this should be done.

Current proposals for the rehabilitation of the world economy, the united nations' charter, with its emphasis on the maintenance of peace and the necessity for raising living standards throughout the world, reflect the desire of mankind to avoid war and to eliminate its causes. Since the united nations conference at San Francisco thoughtful people have realized that much of what we determined there became obsolete when the first atomic bomb fell on Hiroshima. If emphasis were needed, the reports of the obliteration of Nagasaki in to-day's papers would be quite sufficient. The atomic bomb marks the end of many things. The power locked up in the atom has been released. All depends now on how we use it. It can become, when applied to peaceful needs, the great emancipator of mankind; but certainly marks the end of any attempt to keep the peace by balance of power methods. The threat of sudden attack in secrecy rules out such means entirely. Big national armies and mighty national navies would seem to be powerless against even a small air force or robot planes equipped with atomic bombs. Henceforth there seems to be no sane alternative except some body of government at the international level to remove the economic and social causes of war and to bring a rule of law to the whole wide world.

I spoke of the peace-time possibilities of atomic power. They depend upon the success of scientific research. Canada has reason to be proud of the contribution made by her scientists, many of them young men, during this war; but are we going to retain their services for the development of the great potential wealth of the country now? I am told that some of our talented young scientists are being lost to our public service and to Canada because the government has no definite plans for the national research council and continues to pay salaries that by any yardstick, before the war, during the war and now, are disgracefully low. Once they are lost it will be difficult to bring them back to do the public service many of them wish to do.

The speech from the throne foreshadows the beautification of this national capital, already

beautiful in many respects, and its surroundings as a suitable war memorial. That is a noble idea, particularly if it begins with the substitution of decent homes for the fire traps that one can look out upon from these very buildings. Slum clearance, however, should be undertaken not as a memorial to the heroic dead but as justice to the living. In spite of these structures, I think Canada deserves a beautiful national capital city. In addition, I should like to see here, and in each of our provincial capitals, a real centre of Canadian culture. We should have as part of our memorial a cultural centre to include a national theatre, a national library, a national art gallery and, subsidized from public funds, a national opera company, a national dramatic company, a national symphony orchestra and perhaps even a national ballet. If each province undertook a similar project Canada, with its diverse peoples, might become not only the centre of North America culture but the centre of a distinctive Canadian culture, marking its nationhood by more than a new Canadian flag.

It is time Canada, as an independent partner in the British commonwealth of nations, and recognized as a leader among the middle powers, assumed her rightful place among the nations. This war has shown that we can do big things in a big way when we try. I do not want to minimize what this country has done; I do not want to detract from any credit the government should get for what this country has done during the war. The speech from the throne says that steps already have been taken to plan and develop the region around the city of Ottawa on both sides of the river. In this connection let me add a note of disappointment in that the government has seen fit to go abroad for architectural assistance. There are Canadian architects and landscape artists, talented in town planning, able to reflect the spirit of their country, who have been active in study groups and associations in Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver and, indeed, in this city of Ottawa. But whatever may be done here in the way of beautification, Mr. Speaker, as a memorial to those who have suffered throughout this war, I hope and pray that Canada's living sons and daughters may yet make this land itself a fitting memorial to those who died in what we believe to be a great and just cause.

Mr. SOLON E. LOW (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, allow me first to offer you my sincere congratulations upon your election to the highest office it is within the competence of this house to bestow upon one of its members. Let me assure you, sir, of my earnest desire to make the onerous duties that go

with your high office as much lighter as careful observance of the rules of order and considerate, forthright conduct will make them. I do hope that when you have served your term as Speaker of the House of Commons you will have accumulated a rich aggregate of pleasant memories and personal friendships. The start you have made assures me that you will serve with impartiality and distinction.

I wish also to congratulate the mover and seconder of the resolution now before us upon what I consider to be two able addresses. I listened with real interest to what they had to say, moved at times by the lofty sentiments they expressed and fully appreciating the smooth, easy and clear delivery of their messages. Almost they persuaded me to be a Liberal. Both hon. members demonstrated ably that the young men of this day are well prepared to make a valuable contribution to the enrichment of our national life. Of course one would not expect these young men to parade before the house the weaknesses of the government they were elected to support. That is expected from those on this side of the house, and doubtless hon. members here will take full advantage of their opportunities.

However, I should like to make it clear, in this my first real address in parliament, that in anything I shall say now or in the future by way of criticism I shall try to be eminently fair. I do not indulge in carping criticism, nor do I hurl poisoned personal harpoons. But that does not mean to say that I shall not be outspoken when I see in the government's actions, trends which in my humble judgment may militate against the welfare of the Canadian people. I do not believe in crying "peace" where there is no peace.

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to come into the House of Commons representing the people of the constituency of Peace River, which is at once one of the largest ridings in Canada and the last great frontier in the dominion. The immense possibilities of that great inland empire are just beginning to dawn upon the Canadian people. The richness of its fertile farm lands is unsurpassed in all America, a fact attested by the records of crop yields and superior quality grains that have captured scores of top honours at the leading shows and exhibitions of the world. We all remember with pride and thanksgiving the successes of Herman Trelle and the outstanding contribution to Canadian agriculture made by him on his farms at