

*The Address—Mr. Villeneuve*

bound to take an interest in the fate of other nations, less lucky than we are and where men are bereft of food and of the elementary necessities of life. If, on the national plane, a just distribution of resources is the main element of social security, it may be said that in the field of international solidarity, nations should give one another the same effectual support in the economic and social fields. Some peoples suffer from starvation—and more particularly so in Asia—while Canada has large surpluses of food, because of a certain slump in the sale of our agricultural products. Communism will lose its adherents when all nations have no more food, clothing and housing problems. We hope that during his trip the Prime Minister will be able to participate in the formation of and the debates upon these programs, thanks to which Canada will be able to continue to contribute to the welfare of less fortunate and over-populated countries. In our present world, with its shrinking distances, supplying the hungry and thirsty with food and drink is much more than an individual problem, for it reaches beyond borders and oceans. It is less costly than war and military preparations, and helps to avoid international frictions and their consequences. If Asia as a whole were to become communistic, the greater part of our efforts to fight this insidious doctrine would be in vain; Asia lacks bread and necessities, and it is generally due to hunger that individuals, like peoples, are attracted by communism. We are anxious to hear the Prime Minister comment upon what he will have observed during the journey round the world he is going to undertake and we obviously cannot choose a better ambassador for such a delicate mission.

We are still hoping that the termination of hostilities in Korea will help ensure international security through a just and honourable peace, and the favourable conclusion of current negotiations.

The part played by the representatives of the various members of the United Nations Organization in promoting world peace should also be stressed. Canada's part, as always, is prominent, especially because of the attendance at Lake Success of two eminent members of the cabinet, the minister of external affairs (Mr. Pearson) and the Postmaster General (Mr. Cote). The judicious choice of the representatives our country sends to that international organization has brought upon Canada a prestige befitting a country with a much larger population. The preaching of the gospel of good will between the various racial groups in our country has taught us, naturally, to be flexible in the international field, where

Canada is playing a pacifying part in an increasingly efficient way.

I would like now to dwell in particular on a matter mentioned in the speech from the throne. I refer to housing. The matter has attracted a great deal of attention since it has been made known that the National Housing Act was to be amended. Everywhere, and more particularly in towns and villages, the project was enthusiastically received because it is a fact that man by nature wants to own property. In fact, that is a matter of capital importance.

By making it easy to become a property owner, we foster the stability of the Canadian family and social security in our country and we ensure economic stability. The problem has become more acute as the result of the exodus towards the cities, since Canada has become frantically engaged for the past 15 years or so in industrial development. Groups of citizens are seeking an economical and efficient way of coping with the problem of leisure hours; they believe that the problem would be partially solved at least through the multiplication of individual family homes. Property ownership, especially for the labouring class, fosters savings and enables everyone to attain an ideal so highly coveted. In our vast country, it should be quite natural and easy to own a small lot and a house.

A national housing program would also be a source of work in all seasons for the building trades; it would create economic activity and enable a fair proportion of the people to become owners of healthy and comfortable dwellings, while doing away with profiteers; it would prevent savings from being eaten up each month in rent.

One day, a farmer who was peacefully smoking his pipe on his veranda was asked the following question by his son: "What do we mean by fatherland?" The father, extending his arm towards his fields, replied: "That, my son, is the fatherland". As the pride of owning fields is essential to the farmer so the pride of owning a house is essential to the labouring and middle class alike. It is essential for our social stability that our labouring people be able to become property owners. Communism recruits its members among proletarians. In multiplying the number of property owners we will open a large gap in the ranks of communists.

It is essential for the health of our people that we move our citizens out of filthy and overpopulated districts in our large cities, that we take them away from the slums, so that they may breathe fresh air in new districts where it is possible to see the sun otherwise than through smoke.