

for leadership in finance and in government. The cost of these wars, however, brought Britain to her knees; yet, at the same time, brought forward two other great nations, our neighbours to the south and the Soviet Union. A great many people felt that we, in keeping with previous empires that we have read about in history, were on the downgrade and would eventually become a second or third-rate power and, in time, through neglect or indifference, would disintegrate. Little did we or the rest of the world realize that the vitality which had made this the greatest empire was now building up, and with the help of discussions of common interest and meetings of our leaders of the various parts, we again see the empire recovering from those great wounds suffered on behalf of the preservation of peace and our way of life. Once again, we will emerge as a force for the good of mankind in the world.

Another point in this connection which indicates the growing importance of Canada in world affairs was the meeting held in Washington just recently for an exchange of ideas by members of both houses in Ottawa and Washington. This came about as a result of a statement made in the House of Commons by our own Prime Minister and also made by one of the United States senators in Washington. As a result of this statement a steering committee was set up which consisted of a few members of this body and of the House of Commons, headed by, as we are proud to note, the Honourable the Speaker of the Senate and the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Commons. A similar small committee was set up in Washington representing the Senate and the House of Representatives. These two bodies met very recently in Washington and have worked out a plan and an agenda for a future and much larger committee, which is expected to meet sometime during this year. This again shows, as I mentioned before, the great and growing importance of Canada in international affairs.

Honourable senators, I would like to say something with regard to agriculture in western Canada, particularly referring to Saskatchewan, in which province I have lived for the greater part of my life. I would like to paint a word picture of the progress which has been made by the farmers of that province within the past 60 to 65 years.

At the beginning of the twentieth century there was a great rush to that province from eastern Canada, western United States and Europe, to take up homesteads. In those days one picked out 160 acres, or a quarter section of land, paid \$10 to the federal Government for registration and, to obtain the right to own this land, it was necessary to break up

30 acres within three years and put up a small shack and barn. There being no specifications as to the size and quality of which the buildings should consist, we found that all manner of material was used. Those settlers who were close enough to the railway and had some money, coupled with means of transportation to their land, built them of lumber. Those who settled near to any timber built them of logs and plastered them with a mixture of yellow and white clay and straw and then whitewashed them with lime both inside and out. Others who were too distant from transportation used their plow to turn over sods on the prairie and cut them into two-foot lengths by about 18 inches wide and 4 inches thick. These sods were laid out flat, one upon the other, for the walls of the house, leaving a small space for windows and a doorway. For these sod shacks the roof was, of course, made of poles and brush cut from around the sloughs which, in turn, was covered with sod to shed the rain. Contrary to the opinion of those who weren't familiar with these sod shacks, I might say that they were very, very warm in the wintertime and comfortable in the summertime when the cookstove was not being used for the baking of bread or cooking the tough old chickens which were raised around the farms in those days.

The problem of power to work the farm in the early days was taken care of by the use of horses or oxen. Many of the older farmers, even today, claim that the oxen were the finest of motive power that the farmer ever had with which to break land. They, however, were very slow in taking the farmer's grain to market and, when one had to travel some 30 or 40 miles to rail, it was very often necessary to take two days to get to market and two days to get back. They were so slow that I recall one case where a man travelled on foot 25 miles to town for a hundred-pound sack of flour, carried it back home, and reckoned that he made it in much quicker time than if he had used his oxen.

In clearing the land, if you were in a parkland area, you used an axe or logging chain to pull the trees out or cut them down or, if on the prairie, in most areas, one would have to use a heavy bar to dig out the rocks or prairie boulders before a plow could be put into the soil. This was slow work. But by 1910 the country began to take on the appearance of considerable development. Roads were being cut on the square to replace the trails which ran all over the country, telephone lines were being built, farmers were putting up fences to contain their stock, and new homes were