

found time for conversations with members of the Australian Wheat Board, civil aviation authorities, trade officials and other Australian leaders including members of the Commonwealth and State governments. These conversations were helpful in reaching an understanding of Australian problems and points of view but were subsidiary to the main purpose of his trip.

The Australian tour ended on Anzac Day, Apr. 25 when Mr. Howe and Mr. Bull flew to New Zealand. During his stay in that country Mr. Howe visited Christchurch on the South Island, Wellington and Auckland on the North Island and numerous in-between points. At a State luncheon given in Mr. Howe's honour Prime Minister Holland spoke of Canada as the valued and affectionately regarded senior partner in Commonwealth affairs whose advice was always listened to with respect.

Mr. Howe's tour of Australia and New Zealand was an outstanding success. The warmth and cordiality which he received on both the official and unofficial levels and the keen interest displayed by the press in his distinguished career as a Commonwealth statesman and his leadership in the field of Canadian commercial and industrial development confirm the lively sentiments of friendship which the people of Australia and New Zealand entertain for Canada.

A survey of Commonwealth relations would be incomplete without mention of the Fifth British Empire and Commonwealth Games which were staged in the summer of 1954 in Vancouver. The games were officially opened on the evening of July 30 by Field Marshal the Rt. Hon. Earl Alexander of Tunis and were closed on the evening of Aug. 7 by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

This event brought together on the playing fields of Canada's westernmost province, athletes from the United Kingdom, from Australia and New Zealand, from India and Pakistan, from South Africa, from Hong Kong and the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland and from other parts of the Commonwealth. Their friendly rivalry on the sporting field reflected something of that special "family" relationship which is characteristic of the Commonwealth and of contacts between peoples who belong to it. From the point of view of the numbers of athletes participating, the regions represented, and the standard of competition, the Fifth Games were the most successful ever held. But even more important was the opportunity provided for young men and women from all quarters of the globe to see something of Canada and Canadians, to live and to talk together, to exchange ideas and to gain an understanding and appreciation of those qualities of tolerance and mutual confidence which form the basis of the Commonwealth as a living institution.

A continuing and deep-rooted economic problem arises out of the backward agricultural and industrial condition of many countries of south and southeast Asia. Throughout this area conditions had worsened as a result of destruction and impoverishment during World War II. The age-old enemies of mankind—poverty, illiteracy and disease—were in the ascendant and threatened to undermine the promise of healthy and continuous development which had fired the imagination of the peoples of this region, many of whom had recently assumed responsibility for the conduct of their own affairs. The 1950 Conference of Commonwealth Foreign Ministers at Colombo considered the need for the more industrially advanced countries to give assistance to the nations of south and southeast Asia and fashioned the Colombo Plan. Although enlarged since its inception the Colombo Plan was originally a Commonwealth idea and has played a useful part in strengthening the new nation States in their struggle to improve the living conditions of their peoples and realize their national aspirations. Canada was pleased to play host to the third meeting of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee in Ottawa in October 1954.

Commonwealth co-operative arrangements also exist in other fields. During recent years international tension made it necessary to devote to the military strengthening of the free world, including the Commonwealth, resources that might have been used to increase the prosperity and welfare of its inhabitants. Collective security arrangements of various kinds have come into being in a number of areas throughout the world and individual Commonwealth countries play a part in these in accordance with their interests. Canada,