

Among monetary difficulties which have arisen, mention should be made of the crisis due to the scarcity of United States dollars. It can more properly be called a prosperity crisis.

As a matter of fact, because of the great prosperity which the country was enjoying, the Canadian people have lived in abundance, they have had much more comfort, and they have purchased such a quantity of goods from the United States at such high prices that the balance was upset between our exports and our imports. It was this adverse trade balance which necessitated embargoes and restrictions upon our trade with our friendly neighbours to the south; but those restrictions, urgent from a national standpoint, are essentially temporary and we may hope that they will be lifted before long.

In view of our export trade with the various nations of the world, and owing to the recent Geneva agreements, which parliament will be called upon to ratify, we must place our trust in the government which has applied emergency measures with tact, discretion and efficiency, because Canada will no doubt be able to preserve her national prosperity provided her export trade is maintained. There is nevertheless a danger that our exports may cause a greater scarcity of certain goods and bring about unjustified rises in prices. But has not the government taken every possible measure for maintaining our economic stability?

Having observed some difficulties which our Quebec farmers have undergone because of the abnormal rise in the prices of wheat products which has occurred recently, I was pleased to read in the Speech from the Throne that—
—the demand for the products of our primary industries continues to remain at high levels. In view of the price fixed for the 1948-1949 crop year under the wheat agreement with the United Kingdom, you will be asked to consider a measure to provide for an increase in the initial payment to producers.

It is indeed imperative that the wheat situation be settled so that the prices to consumers should not be too high.

May I mention, among other government measures, such essential legislation as the dominion labour code providing for the establishment of more efficient machinery for the adjustment of differences between employers and employees; the revision of the Canada Shipping Act, a measure of prime importance in relation to trade; plans for a low-rental housing project for veterans, and many bills relating to war veterans, who served their country with such distinction and are justly

entitled to the government's consideration and parliament's sympathy.

In conclusion, I may say that I unreservedly approve of Canada's foreign policy as outlined by the Minister of External Affairs, the Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent, who recently stated in Montreal that "in the economic as well as in the political field, Canada cannot be isolationist".

He said that our country could not be isolationist in the political and economic fields, that our duty and our higher interests compelled us to co-operate with the United States in the restoration of Europe, but that such an objective could not be reached without close co-operation between French-speaking and English-speaking Canadians; that the United States alone probably would not have been willing to help Europe; that in his opinion, at this time, no country wants war and, further, that no nation is now seeking to prepare an armed conflict; that he is convinced that, throughout the world, war is abominated; that if a third world war occurred there would probably be no victors, as there were after the wars against the Kaizer, Hitler, and Japan's imperialists; that democracies are now able to produce more than Soviet Russia and her satellites, and that they are more powerful, from a military standpoint, than the U.S.S.R.; that the Russians will surely dominate Europe if the United States Congress does not approve the Marshall plan, and that they are now striving and will continue to do all they can to prevent the ratification of that measure, but that they will fail.

Hon. F. W. GERSHAW: Honourable senators, in rising to second this motion I must first of all thank the leader (Hon. Mr. Robertson) for assigning this honour to me. I take it to be a compliment to the people of the territory of southern Alberta, that I am trying to represent. The people who are pioneering in the foothills of the Rockies and on the adjacent prairies have come from many countries. They differ in religion, politics and economic views, but they are all intensely loyal to the Crown. They find in royalty something that appeals to them. A short time ago, in many remote rural sections as well as in urban centres the radios were turned on at 4 a.m. for the broadcast of the royal wedding, and the people were particularly anxious to hear the words whispered at the altar by the gracious Princess who some day may be Queen of Canada and who already has captivated the hearts of all.