

of competitive business and freedom of enterprise, he carries on because he renders a service to the community. To adopt a policy of "don't give a damn" toward him and to make regulations that will squeeze him out of business is to adopt a policy which at the conclusion of this war, or perhaps before that time, will place all the business of this country in the hands of great corporations and monopolies.

Mr. FRASER (Northumberland): Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. HAZEN: Not just now, if you please.

I know that the leader of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, or socialist party, in a radio address only a few evenings ago, said:

. . . when peace comes there must be no return to the old way of doing business with its unplanned, unregulated competition. . . .

I do not agree with that statement. In my opinion, competition subject to proper safeguards as to hours of labour and living standards of wages, is the life of trade and of economic progress; and only as long as we have freedom of competition and freedom of enterprise will freedom continue to exist in this country.

I was not inclined to believe that the government would approve any such unwise and dangerous policy, but only a few days ago I read an address given in Vancouver by Mr. Donald Gordon, the energetic and able chairman of the wartime prices and trade board, during the course of which he said:

In spite of uninformed critics, responsible government was nowhere more in evidence than in the administration of the board. The suggestion that the board or its chairman could wield wide powers without ministerial control or responsibility was not in accordance with the facts.

If the correct conclusion to be drawn from that statement is that the government approves this don't-give-a-damn policy, then I have no hesitation in saying that it is time it reconsidered that policy, and came to some other decision in the matter. I would say further that the time has come when these regulations, or some of them, should be reviewed, and, when necessary, altered in order to protect the middleman and the small businessman.

This matter was forcibly brought to my attention recently by certain regulations that were passed by the New Brunswick dairy products commission. This commission was established by act of the New Brunswick legislature in 1935. Its object was declared to be, and I quote from the act:

[Mr. Hazen.]

The enforcement of commercial ethics and marketing conditions that will enure to the common benefit of the dairy trade and the general public.

The dairy trade, the act states, comprises the producer-suppliers, or farmers, the vendors, the dealers or dairies and the storekeepers.

The vendors are the men who buy their milk from the dairies and sell it to their customers who, until these regulations came into force, were stores, restaurants, hotels, institutions and private homes.

Most of these dealers, or dairies, in addition to selling milk to the vendors also have their own delivery wagons, and sold milk to the householders.

These vendors had been in business for many years in the city of Saint John. They would be up every morning, about half past two, and would reach the dairies at a very early hour. They would have their milk delivered to their customers in time for breakfast. They would not finish their work until some time in the afternoon. Their hours were long and the work was hard. But these men did not think the country owed them a living, and they did not look for government bonuses or assistance. They made their living by rendering a service to the community.

Recently, without consultation with the dairies, without consultation with the vendors, without taking any expert advice so far as I have been able to find out—and I questioned the commission about it—the commission issued certain regulations having the force of law, which provided that in future all milk sold to stores, hotels or other institutions had to be sold by the dairies themselves, and could not be sold by the vendors. These regulations took from the vendors about fifty per cent of their business—the best part of it, because it is much easier to deliver two or three cases of milk to a store, hotel or some other institution than to climb up one or two flights of stairs to deliver one or two bottles of milk to one householder and one or two to another. Not only did it take away about half of their business, and the better half, but it cut their incomes in half. It did all this without providing them with any compensation whatsoever.

Undoubtedly it was highly pleasing to the dairies, or most of them, to get the best part of the vendors' business, without any expense to themselves. But it worked a great hardship and a great injustice to the vendors; for these men had families to keep, rent to pay, taxes, insurance premiums and other obligations to meet, and this drastic cut in