

Mr. MARTIN: As far as possible that is done. A small order amounting to \$450 was given the other day to a small shop in a little town. In such a case it is difficult, where the order is small, to exercise a full supervisory direction. I am going to have that matter looked into and possibly we can take a definite step in that direction. Perhaps by the time my estimates come up I shall have something more definite to report.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): I am going to show the minister how he can save a great deal of money. My suggestion is that he cease printing menu cards in the restaurant. We have all been here for three months now. Our memories are not all bad and we all know the particular kind of poor food that we shall get every day. The food may be all right when it reaches the restaurant, but when it reaches us it is simply terrible, so let us not bother about printing these cards any more. Just let us go and take chuck. If they mix it all together and make a good stew it will be infinitely better than the courses we get now.

Mr. KNOWLES: When a member gets the answer "yes" he should be satisfied, but I wish the minister would be a little more enthusiastic, to say the least, about this question of whether or not consideration that is really worth anything is being given the matter of a collective agreement with the employees and also the use of the union label. So often we get the answer that consideration is being given that it is not always convincing. Hence I ask the minister to indicate to the committee the precise stage at which that consideration now stands.

Mr. MARTIN: The matter is actively under consideration. The hon. gentleman knows that when I say "yes" in answer to that kind of question I mean this.

Mr. KNOWLES: Thank you.

Section agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

CANADIAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION

ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

Hon. J. A. MacKINNON (Minister of Trade and Commerce) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to present a bill to establish a corporation to be known as the Canadian Commercial Corporation empowered to assist in the development of trade between Canada and other nations and to assist persons in Canada to

obtain goods and commodities from outside Canada and to dispose of goods and commodities that are available for export from Canada. Provision is made for grants to the corporation from unappropriated moneys of the consolidated revenue fund of amounts not exceeding in the aggregate ten million dollars and other grants out of the consolidated revenue fund as authorized.

He said: On April 2 of this year I tabled in the house an order in council establishing the Canadian Commercial Corporation. At that time I pointed out that in the present disturbed condition of world trade there are many transactions which cannot be handled entirely by private business and that, in order to deal effectively with many urgent transactions then in hand, it was necessary to bring the corporation into being as rapidly as possible by order in council.

That order in council, P.C. 1218 of March 29, 1946, became effective on the first day of May, and on that date the property, obligations and rights of the Canadian export board were assumed by the Canadian Commercial Corporation.

The legislation now before the house will enable the corporation to serve the needs of Canadian business on a continuing basis so long as the requirements of international trade demand.

As I have already mentioned, one of the principal obligations which the Canadian Commercial Corporation will be called upon to discharge is the work hitherto performed by the Canadian export board which made purchases in Canada for foreign governments and for the united nations relief and rehabilitation administration. I should refer here to the work done by the Canadian export board in this very important field.

The Canadian export board was established in January, 1944, to buy essential non-military supplies in Canada for other governments. Its work has developed steadily in scope and importance since that date. Among the countries for whom purchases have been made by the Canadian export board are the United Kingdom, and the United Kingdom crown colonies, Australia, India, Southern Rhodesia, France, Russia, South Africa, New Zealand, Belgium, the Netherlands, the Netherlands East Indies, Norway, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, China and also, of course, purchases for UNRRA. The actual value of the contracts placed by the board as of April 30, 1946, totalled \$404,274,550. The value of goods on requisitions raised by the board and transferred to the Canadian Commercial Corporation for future action is estimated to be \$41,142,310.