

the facts? Here I have a statistical report which shows that the export trade of Canada is higher than it ever was before. For instance, the total exports in 1951 were valued at \$3,914 million, or at the rate of \$326 million a month. That is the average rate over the year.

I have the figures for 1952 which show that in the first seven months our export trade amounted to \$2,460 million, or at a rate of \$351 million a month over the seven-month period, or \$25 million a month more than in 1951 which, up to that time, was the record year.

That is not only true for the over-all export trade of Canada. It is equally true for exports to the United Kingdom market. In 1951 those exports were valued at \$631,500,000, or a monthly average rate of \$52.6 million. For the first seven months of 1952 they amounted to \$462.8 million, or at a rate of \$66.1 million on an average for those seven months.

Of course there are things in addition to those we have been exporting to the market of the United Kingdom which we would be most anxious to sell to them and which they, I understand, would be anxious to take from us. That is known to them just as it is to us. I should like to read just a few lines from the public speech made by Mr. Eden here in Ottawa before the Canadian Club, as reported in the *Ottawa Evening Citizen* of November 17. This is what he said:

We know that Canada has a vital interest in the strength of sterling and that is why you are so closely concerned in these efforts which we are making . . .

As to trade between our two countries, I know that we at home are not taking all that you would wish to sell. Nor are we taking all that we would wish to buy. But it is all that we can afford today. And what we do buy is no mean total for a country of 50 million people. In 1951, we took from Canada \$631 million worth of goods—34 per cent more than the year before. But we only sold some \$400 million worth to Canada.

Of course, if \$400 million is no mean total for a country of 50 million, then \$631 million is no mean total for a country of 14 million. He went on:

To buy more Canadian goods, therefore, we must earn more from our exports to you. Increasing those exports is our responsibility. We must find out what you need. And we know that our prices and deliveries must be competitive. You will, I think, agree that we have made real progress in these respects since 1947 and this despite the grievous burden which rearmament has imposed upon our engineering industry.

The total market has not been lost, as \$631 million for 1951 is 34 per cent greater than were our exports to them in 1950. I have not figured the percentage but there is an increase in these figures of about \$14½ million a month in the first seven months of

1952 so far as exports to them are concerned. But there are restrictions on their imports from this country, restrictions which prevent us from selling them apples, cheese and other dairy products, poultry, canned salmon and other food products, because they say that they cannot afford to pay for them and that they have to use the Canadian or American dollars they are able to acquire by their exports to different countries for things which they consider of greater value to them than are these products which we would like to sell to them.

The hon. gentleman has said that he hopes we are not going there with any idea of telling them how they should run their own affairs, and that if the situation were reversed and they were to attempt to tell us how to run our affairs we might resent it. I can assure the hon. gentleman that we fully appreciate their situation. We do not forget that in 1947 we found ourselves in a position where we had to impose restrictions on the importation of a lot of things that many of us wished to have but which were less essential than other imports for which we were using our United States dollars. I know that when we approached the election of 1949 we were told in many quarters that we were going to find a housewife or kitchen revolt against the fact that they had been deprived during 1947 and onward, for a period of time, of lettuce and other green vegetables which had come to be looked upon as indispensable articles of the Canadian diet.

We appreciate the situation and we are not going to attempt to tell them how they should go about using such Canadian or United States dollars as they do acquire by their exports; but the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) and myself are leaving tomorrow to go over there to endeavour to work with them in trying to find ways which will enable them to remove the restrictions they have found it necessary, because of their dwindling reserves, to impose upon the importation of some of the things we would be very desirous of seeing them buy and which they apparently would be very desirous of having. I am sure it is only under what they consider the sternest kind of necessity that they are providing Russian canned salmon for their people instead of the canned salmon of, I am sure, such satisfactory quality that they used to get from our cannery of the Pacific coast.

As hon. members know, the invitation to attend this prime ministers' conference was received here on the 25th of June last, just after the decision had been announced to call our parliament into session on the 20th of November. In spite of the fact that parliament met last week, the government felt that the