

The Address—Mr. Low

the government at this time, because it has not been many weeks since we heard, up and down the country, that they had answers for everything. I have not seen those answers in respect of some things. They should be producing them.

There is one further point I should like to make in this connection. The government makes the claim that they have enjoyed a good and increasing volume of trade everywhere since the close of the war. I admit that may be so; but there is another side to this case about which I should like to say just a few words at this time.

After the war the Canadian government ought to have gone all out in its efforts to promote to the utmost all trade with other nations on any reasonable basis that could be devised, as a means of holding our traditional markets and increasing the demands for our food products. However, this government sat complacently by, thinking that all was well. In fact we heard them say in this very House of Commons that all was well. They did nothing to promote the kind of trading relationships that were possible and logical under the circumstances existing in those post-war days.

Certainly we were selling our agricultural products, but we must give the credit for that to the taxpayers of the United States who sacrificed many hundreds of millions of dollars of their personal incomes in order that Canadian food could find its way into hungry mouths overseas.

From April 3, 1948, through March 30, 1953, that is through five fiscal years, the United States Marshall plan and their mutual security aid program made offshore purchases from Canada with United States dollars to a grand total of \$1,539,063,000. Not one dollar's worth of these goods went to the United States itself. The great bulk of it went to European countries, and smaller amounts to Asiatic countries. What was purchased by the United States from us during those five years, to be sent as gifts to help other countries to recover from the effects of the war, made up 32²/₉₁₀₀ per cent of Canada's total domestic exports; so we could say that approximately one-third of all of Canada's export trade from April 3, 1948, to March 30, 1953, was financed by United States dollars contributed by the taxpayers of that country to help the countries of Europe and Asia to get back on their feet.

Of the total of \$1,539,063,000 of Marshall plan and mutual security aid purchases in Canada, \$604,540,000 represented purchases of agricultural commodities. It is easy to understand why we were selling our agricultural products during that period of time.

[Mr. Low.]

It was not because we went out after markets, or made any effort at all to hold our traditional markets.

I am sure these figures are correct, because I have checked them carefully in a publication from the dominion bureau of statistics entitled "Trade of Canada—Domestic Exports", as well as in mutual security agency reports on paid shipments data as of April 30, 1953. These documents I have in my possession and, as I say, I have checked the figures carefully. I am sure the people of Canada will be keenly interested in those figures, especially in the light of the claim that is made by this government that their policies were responsible for the volume of trade that Canada has enjoyed since the end of the war. That is not borne out by the facts.

However, more than a year ago the United States government began to reduce mutual security aid and Marshall aid, and therefore purchases of agricultural products in Canada with United States dollars have declined substantially. This has been one of the contributing factors to the accumulation of great surpluses of food products in our country, as well as the decline in farm prices, which has hit the farmers very hard.

Surely it must have been clear to the government of Canada that Marshall aid would not go on forever, and that it would be necessary in the years while we were enjoying this United States generosity to promote our own trade relationships with the various countries of Europe and Asia, so that with the cessation of Marshall aid, our agriculturists and other primary producers could still be ensured of a continuing and lucrative market for their production.

We realize all too well how important trade is to Canada. We have always advocated—and when I say "we" I speak of the group I have the honour to lead—the very utmost in mutually satisfactory trade with all other nations of the world. We have not supported those trade and financial policies of this government that have severely limited our trade. We have fought them, and fought them with the best of intentions. We are perfectly sure that if, in the post-war period, Canada had indicated to Britain and the European countries that we would be prepared to accept sterling in settlement of their trade balances with us, much or most of these food surpluses that are now causing us such difficulty throughout our own country would now be stored in the ample storage space to be found in many countries of the world who need and want our food production. I would rather see a lot of it stored there than have