

Now is the opportunity for the Canadian manufacturers.

Practically everything, except things to eat or to wear, are desired in this exposition.

To illustrate the demand and the readiness with which goods offered are taken, let me say that we are already asked to make prices and submit samples for the restoration of one city, which will cost 150,000,000 francs, another 250,000,000 francs, another, 600,000,000 francs.

The exhibits will be admitted free from all duties, and arrangements will be made with the French consul at the point of shipment to so stamp the goods on their departure.

Again I urgently call the special attention of the Minister of Trade and Commerce to that circular, and ask him to have it distributed amongst the manufacturers and business men of Canada. Their opportunity is excellent, having regard to our special standing in France.

Mr. Speaker, I will not take up the time of the House further, except to say this: There is some confusion in certain minds as to the business ability of the French people. People are apt to believe that the French people are only able to make savings. Sir, the French are a wealthy people because they make savings, but they become wealthy because they are industrious. It is by hard work that they make their savings profitable. It is said that the French export trade does not bulk large in the bluebooks. Let me answer in the words of one of the ablest French statesmen, an ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs, who visited Canada a few years ago, and who has been one of the most remarkable writers before and during the present war, who was one of the fathers of the Entente Cordiale—I refer to Mr. Gabriel Hanotaux. Speaking of the trade of France with the world, he said it could be crystallized in one simple expression, "small tonnage and large profits." We do not export coal from France, says Mr. Hanotaux, but we export diamonds—small tonnage, large profits. We do not export cotton, he says, but an artist in Paris will buy a small canvas, put a frame around it, and with a few strokes of his brush he will sign his name—Cormon, or some other—selling it afterwards for 500,000 or perhaps 1,000,000 francs—small tonnage, large profits. That is the commerce of France, coupled with her genius, expressed in words.

But, Sir, to conclude it all, and regretting that I have taken so much time, let me say that I expect my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce, who has such command of the English language, but whom I suspect to be French at heart—I would say that even to his electors in Toronto—

[Mr. Lemieux.]

An hon. MEMBER: He speaks French well.

Mr. LEMIEUX: He speaks it well; he is a university graduate. Yes; I expect that he will do his best to promote trade between Canada and France. He may well be proud of what has been achieved, not only since the war but before the war, for our trade with France has increased wonderfully within the past five years. The time has come to capture more of that trade, to keep it in the channels which it has entered, and so to maintain between Canada and the old motherland of one-third of the Canadian people, now the faithful ally of Great Britain, the happiest relations that can exist.

Mr. S. F. GLASS (Middlesex East): I have a question to ask the hon. member for Rouville (Mr. Lemieux), but did not put it while he was speaking, as I did not wish to interrupt him. He quoted from a circular sent to the members of this House portions of a certain resolution, but he omitted the preamble and certain clauses. I presume that the fact that he presents these resolutions to the House, and places a portion on Hansard, may be taken as indicating that to some extent they met his approval. But I would like to read a clause in the preamble and also a portion of the resolution which the hon. member omitted. Possibly there may not have been reason for omitting these, but I think they would form a valuable contribution with the rest, as showing the opinions of these representative farmers, manufacturers and business men who met in Galt:

And whereas it would seem to be feasible for the Allies, by means of customs tariffs and otherwise, to reserve their great consuming markets for their mutual enjoyment, and to the exclusion of the enemy, thus serving the double purpose of hastening their own economic recovery, while retarding that of the Central Powers.

The hon. gentleman said he would not delay the House by reading the whole resolution, but he read the third clause and passed over the fourth as "etc, etc." The fourth clause says:

An agreement among all the Allies to subject the products of the Central Empires to such surtaxes and other disabilities as will effectually restrict their competition in the markets of the Allies.

I wanted to ask my hon. friend why these parts of the preamble and of the resolution were omitted by him in reading this circular.