

the Canadian armed forces won in two world wars were surrendered without a vigorous protest by the Canadian government and parliament. I say that, and in saying it I commend and approve the actions of the government in this respect so far.

Reference is made in the speech from the throne to the question of international responsibilities for the destitute and for the rehabilitation of desolated areas. Let me say a word about the first of those two matters, the relief of the destitute. This question relates to immigration. The surplus of food in some countries and the surplus of people in others raises the question of the movement of peoples across international boundaries. The expansion of immigration into Canada is urged by some and feared by others. The question is: Shall we continue to limit our own population while exporting huge surpluses of food to help supply the vast needs of a populous outside world, or shall we welcome immigration into Canada of reasonable numbers of healthy, democratically-minded peoples from the more crowded lands?

Obviously it is the part of wisdom for Canada to help strengthen the economies of food-deficit nations. It is also obvious that thinly populated nations exporting surpluses which may not be paid for should give thought to redressing these ill balances by the admission of desirable people from crowded and deficit lands, both to relieve distress there and to help production here.

The questions of trade and immigration overlap. At the moment some people are of the view that we are going at this joint problem wrong end to. We are a thinly populated land, rich in resources and food production possibilities, while there are thickly populated lands outside that are short of food. With a small population we are trying to feed a hungry world outside when we are doing practically nothing to welcome to our shores selected citizens from crowded lands. The government seems fearful of taking a lead in this matter. What we need is a national policy by which we can let a reasonable number of acceptable people into this country whenever they can be absorbed without any danger to the employment of our own people. We would then not be so dependent upon export markets. We could thus better serve both ourselves and the outside world. That is a general statement of principle. The government, having the responsibilities of the day, must within such principles work out a detailed policy.

Here we are today with an expanding economy. We have a prosperous country,

and yet boys are leaving the farms because they prefer the wages and working conditions of the cities. Many are leaving the mines because they do not want to spend long hours at difficult toil. We are getting into a position where production is falling because men in sufficient numbers are not working in essential industries to the extent that they once were. How much of that is due to an educational system which takes men away from tasks involving hard labour to join white-collar groups is something that it is a bit late to consider, but it is a fact which must be taken into account when we look at the crowded conditions of the outside world and see the relatively empty conditions that prevail here, and see also the need, in certain types of our industrial life, for workers.

Another paragraph in the speech from the throne refers to trade. Three persons out of every eight in Canada depend upon world trade for a livelihood; therefore the prosperity of the nation depends largely upon foreign trade. If we are to have foreign trade, if we are to sell our surplus goods, we must let others sell us goods in return, otherwise our exports cannot be paid for. Economic peace involves trade, and trade will continue only on a two-way street. The favourable balances of trade in the past turned out to be the causes of economic maladjustment. The nation that sells more products or services to its neighbours than it is prepared to have them sell to it creates a debt that can seldom if ever be paid.

It is conceded that wider the area of freedom of trade there is in a region, the greater prosperity there will be. It is conceded also that in the event of war the industrial nations are stronger than the agricultural nations. In the past that has been the limitation upon the expansion of the freedom of trade. It follows that as security against war increases in the world the less reason there will be for nationalistic policies of self-sufficiency, the less excuse there will be for restricting trade.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. MacKinnon) stated, I think on Thursday last, that Canada's external trade had reached an all-time record. Looking at the figures alone, that is true, but let us look at the whole situation; let us examine all the facts. First, Canada's exports for the year 1946 were \$2,300 million—I am taking the minister's figures. Of that vast amount only 25 per cent, or \$575 million, went to Great Britain. It is reported by the Ottawa correspondent of an American magazine—I have no other means of verification, but perhaps the government has—that Great Britain is taking up the Canadian