

*Commercial Corporation*

000,000, what there is that the corporation can do in the months to come that cannot be done by businessmen for themselves if they are willing to do it? Why do we need the interposition of this government agency to do something in connection with business? Is there something so peculiar about these arrangements that we must set up an organization with 120 employees, taking them out of production and putting them on the backs of the taxpayers, so that we can never get any incentive restored to business itself?

May I say in regard to the second part of the resolution, which says that this corporation is to create export markets for Canadian products, that surely that has been the purpose of the Department of Trade and Commerce for many years, practically ever since it has existed. Is this corporation now to take over that function?

Mr. MacKINNON: I do not remember making any such statement.

Mr. JACKMAN: The two copies of the order in council were sent up to the debates office and are not available to us, but it consisted of two sections, and the purpose was (a) to find goods for import into Canada and (b) to find outlets for Canadian goods. I think I am correct in that statement. I should like to know whether or not this corporation is to find markets for Canadian goods or find out what there is to know about such markets. Take, for example, the bacon market in Great Britain. Is that to be the function of this corporation? I do not understand the real need for this corporation apart from the fact that it is handling business for UNRRA and foreign governments. What is it going to do that business cannot do for itself? I do not think I can put it any more clearly than that. I do not know whether the minister can give me a clearer statement of exactly what it is going to do that Canadian business cannot do for itself. For the benefit of my hon. friend the member for Vancouver East, when I say Canadian business I mean the whole Canadian people, but it is the businessmen who must take the responsibility and leadership in these matters. I do not see what this corporation can do that businessmen cannot do for themselves if given a fair break.

Mr. MacINNIS: Mr. Chairman, this resolution—

Mr. JACKMAN: Just a moment. I was waiting for an answer from the minister. I do not want to go back to the days of Drake, but even in those days we had those who would scuttle the ship.

[Mr. Jackman.]

Mr. MacKINNON: This corporation is not set up to find markets for our goods. It is set up to make purchases in Canada for foreign demands. It provides machinery not now available to private trade.

Mr. JACKMAN: Is the minister speaking of exports or imports?

Mr. MacKINNON: I am speaking of exports.

Mr. MacINNIS: This resolution has been on the order paper since May 28, and I imagine that since that time business firms and business organizations such as chambers of commerce and boards of trade have had an opportunity to see it and study its implications. I would ask the minister how many protests against this measure he has received from business organizations.

Mr. MacKINNON: No protests, no adverse criticism, no objections whatsoever; nothing but commendation, and a great deal of commendation, from business generally.

Mr. GREEN: Of course nobody knew anything about the bill until to-night.

Mr. MacINNIS: The resolution has been on the order paper since May 28, and its purpose is clearly outlined by its language. Businessmen would realize its implications just as quickly as we would, and would be in just as good a position to judge of the value of the measure as we are. So I would suggest that there is really something wrong here to-night; either businessmen do not know their own business, or they are not properly represented in this house.

Mr. ARCHIBALD: I think this resolution has been brought about, not so much from the desires of the government, as from necessity, because of the trend there is in the world to-day. I have a clipping here from the *Montreal Standard* of June 22, giving an interview with Robert W. Keyserlingk, managing director of the British United Press. He points out:

Canada, hoping for trade in post-war Europe, is confronted by the fact that in order for them to buy from us we must first lend them the money.

She is confronted, too, with the ceaseless and boundaryless conflict between individualism and collectivism. For collectivism has already gone further in fact in Europe than it has even in theory over here.

The point is this. Over in Europe, in the major trade centres of the world, our government is entering into business direct with other governments, buying and selling, because that business cannot be handled by individual businessmen. They can work only in