

Supply—Trade and Commerce

Mr. Low: The inference is that the only way which the economy can work is through war.

An hon. Member: Are you making that statement?

Mr. Low: I am making that statement right now that the only way the economy of this country, as managed by this government, can continue is through war, but that does not make war a good thing.

Mr. Hosking: I certainly agree with you that no war is a good thing, and I do not like anyone to suggest it is creating good times.

Mr. Low: It does create good times, and that is the only way we have had good times.

Mr. Hosking: That may be your opinion, but it certainly is not mine, and I am glad a Liberal government is governing the country instead of one with your opinions.

Mr. Low: Produce the evidence that it does not.

Mr. Hosking: Let me suggest to you—

The Chairman: Order. Will the hon. member address himself to the Chair.

Mr. Hosking: Let me suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, that in 1950 when this Korean war broke out, the opposition were suggesting that we should again put on price controls. The government, in its wisdom, decided that we would put on the credit restrictions and taxes which were of a beneficial nature to all the people of this country because they brought down the cost of living. I should like to suggest that now that we have successfully combated the inflation which was brought about by the Korean situation the government, in its last budget, has made a very substantial effort to create employment and good times by removing those controls which a year ago it was necessary to impose.

It is with these thoughts in mind that I would recall to hon. members of the house, through you Mr. Chairman, that this government, with its sound judgment; because it was not driven into huge public works expenditures at the wrong time; because it did not put on controls and rationing at the wrong time; and with its policy of pay-as-you-go, has created the good times that we have enjoyed in this country. I think, Mr. Chairman, I should make it clear to the house that we do appreciate what the Minister of Trade and Commerce has done when he tells us that under the Liberal government we have sold all the products we have produced in this country during the past year at the

highest prices that we have ever had. I should like to pay him a tribute at this time.

Mr. Coldwell: On a matter of privilege, Mr. Chairman, I understand that while I was absent from the chamber the hon. member said I had made a statement that war was a good thing. I do not know how any such interpretation could be put on anything I have said or have ever said. I think it is a most abominable thing, and a great danger to the peaceful commerce of the world.

Mr. Hosking: I said that you had said that war had created good times, and that the Minister of Trade and Commerce should not take credit for that.

Mr. Coldwell: That is a distortion of what I said.

Mr. Thatcher: May I call it six o'clock, Mr. Chairman?

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. Thatcher: Mr. Chairman, this afternoon we heard the Minister of Trade and Commerce give us another of his typically optimistic trade speeches. As a matter of fact, I suppose most Canadians find it rather refreshing to hear the optimism of the minister, but I think this afternoon he perhaps went too far. He accused the hon. member for Brant-Wentworth of distorting the facts, when the hon. member suggested that our British markets are disappearing. Well, I shall not accuse the Minister of Trade and Commerce of distortion, but I certainly do accuse him of gross inaccuracies this afternoon, and of making misleading statements. I draw the attention of the committee to two or three of the statements which he made. He said that we have sold more to Britain in the last twelve months than we have ever sold in the history of this country, war years or no war years. I ask hon. members to look at that again. What are the facts? I have in my hand a publication which is put out by the dominion bureau of statistics, I believe a department under the minister. It is called "Canadian Balance of International Payments for 1951." I turn to page 13 and there I find a statement of the Canadian domestic exports to the United Kingdom from 1948 to 1951. In 1951, the year the minister is speaking about, Canada exported to Great Britain \$631 million worth of goods. That is the figure that is supposed to be the all-time