

Supply—Trade and Commerce

review of our tariff structure, at the same time I say that if research in this country were accelerated to the same pace that we find in other countries we would be placed in a much healthier position to meet all competition. I should also like to refer to a man for whom I have a great deal of respect, a man who is certainly well known to the minister, his own Dr. Firestone. In a speech he made some time ago he made a statement that I think will be appropriate for a long time to come. He said:

The alternative to the outmoded method of applying prohibitive tariffs is to improve our techniques of production so that our costs will allow us to compete and expand our foreign trade.

As a matter of fact, when the minister was discussing the position of some of our own industries yesterday I believe he indicated that there was some responsibility on those industries to have regard to the demands which they could fill and that in order to meet competition they might have to do away with some of the gadgets they might like to have on their products. An important part of Dr. Firestone's statement, and I think most people in Canada share this view, is that he warned that one of the great lessons of the last half century is that Canadians must meet four conditions to hold their position as one of the leaders in world trade. He said that they must (1) remain competitive; (2) keep our economy flexible; (3) take bold and imaginative action to develop our resources; and (4) be prepared at times to wait for their efforts to bear fruit.

It is significant that Dr. Firestone, an economic adviser, places "remain competitive" first in order of importance, because if we are to remain competitive we must be in a position to produce at a price that will compete with other countries which are also struggling for export markets.

I think another authority for whom we have considerable respect in this country is Dr. J. W. T. Spinks. I wish to quote a few lines from his statement to the Massey commission. He said:

It is necessary to look ahead to the time when we shall be compelled to do more of our own research to keep up with developments in the industrial field. The importation of scientific ideas is bad for the intellectual development of a country, particularly when coupled with the export of scientific brains. In time of war it leaves the country in an extremely vulnerable position. In time of peace it weakens its competitive position with other nations. Today research has a profound influence on our national welfare and security.

Another idea which I should like to project at this moment, Mr. Chairman, is connected with the export of some of our best brains to the United States and other countries where they do find opportunities to pursue

their particular studies. There is not an hon. member in this house who likes to see our Canadian university graduates seeking employment outside of this country. I think that is a matter which must be very seriously considered and combated. In this country we do not have the field for intensive research studies after university degrees are given that are afforded to students in other countries. Canada is also the landing field for many people seeking entry to the United States for greater opportunity. In many cases, we import the raw material and export the finished product. We are exporting Canadian talent, Canadian brains, Canadian enterprise to the United States because we do not provide the opportunities for scientific development in this country.

In Britain, Mr. Chairman, they have a scientific committee set up which has been doing a tremendous job. I have gone on record previously with respect to that particular committee. The United Kingdom has been recognized over the years for its ability to trade in world markets, and there the importance of research is not only recognized but encouraged by the government. In Britain they have a continuing parliamentary scientific and industrial research committee, which works in co-operation with scientists in industry, agriculture and labour. The remarkable recovery, and progress in technological development made since the war by Britain's bombed-out industries, is largely due to her full utilization of scientific research.

I am not going to pursue that idea further, except to say it is already on record. I do hope that if this committee is set up it will inquire into research generally in Canada. We could have evidence which might lead the committee to bring in recommendations acceptable to the government. I might mention just now, Mr. Chairman, that well known person who has been in the news even recently, Sir Robert Watson-Watt. When speaking in Ottawa some time ago, he said:

Canada needs such a council on which complicity has no seat, in which mutual confidence grows out of mutual understanding.

Scientific and industrial research, agricultural research, research on natural resources, would all be co-ordinated in this one advisory council, which is not the case in Canada today.

I might mention the important part that research has played in the pulp and paper industry before I close. I refer to it because it has an annual wage bill in this country of over \$300 million, and its exports are around the billion dollar mark. It has a staff and a volume of expenditure for research in Canada second in size only to the national