

The Address—Mr. MacDougall

ible. In detail, here are some recommendations that I should like to lay before the house and the government:

1. We must buy from those who buy from us. And the people who buy more from us than they sell to us, the people who are our best customers now and have been traditionally, are the people in the sterling areas.

2. We must accept sterling in payment until sterling countries are able to pay in dollars; and the Bank of Canada should convert sterling, if necessary, into Canadian dollars until the pound and the dollar are freely convertible.

3. We must stop thinking of the artificial setting of exchange rates. Exchange is both the medium and the measure of foreign trade. That is all it is or should be. It should be allowed to function as such. Let currencies find their proper levels in the exchange field. We are talking about foreign exchange, not domestic levels. Let them find their proper levels in the exchange field as measured by foreign trade. If this works temporary hardship, then take other measures through the means now open, through official control of credit and currency—that is, through the Bank of Canada and the international monetary fund—to relieve hardship and to soften any violent fluctuation.

4. We must approach sterling countries along these lines and work out a program whereby they will agree to remove their restrictions on purchases in Canada by their residents, so that trade can in fact begin to flow freely. And in my view we should even be prepared to contemplate some form of commonwealth clearing house to adjust the initial disproportion which would undoubtedly exist between the demand for Canadian dollars and the demand for sterling.

It must be admitted that these measures call for international co-operation. But, to go back to the point I made at the beginning of my observations, the welfare, employment and income of nearly every Canadian depends upon finding a solution to this problem. No longer, merely because it is a problem international in scope, can we allow our official attitude to be, as has been said by the ministry in the past, that Canada can do nothing. Canada's trade and employment are at stake, and Canada must act to protect them.

Mr. J. L. MacDougall (Vancouver-Burrard): Mr. Speaker, it was not my intention to speak in the debate on the address in reply. Occasion has changed events, however; and after listening to the excellent address delivered the other day by my good friend the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker), I felt that perhaps the other eighty-nine new

members might have felt, as I have, the symptom so well described by the hon. member. Consequently at this time I take the occasion to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, upon your elevation to the high office you now hold. I congratulate collectively all those who have thus far participated in the debate, and again I add my voice to that of those who have so far extended congratulations.

May I in my introductory remarks speak with respect to the riding it is my honour to represent in the House of Commons. No doubt hon. members are now conscious of the fact that there is one riding in British Columbia which is pre-eminently superlative in all Canada. Let me say, however, that there is another riding which equals the beauty, the magnitude and the importance of that of my good friend who represents the constituency of Vancouver South (Mr. Laing); I refer to my beloved riding of Vancouver-Burrard.

As we enter the portals of this parliament building we see inscribed above the doors these words:

The wholesome sea is at her gates,
Her gates both east and west.

That applies to my riding only unilaterally. I am sure, however, that whoever was responsible for this inscription must first have seen the riding of Vancouver-Burrard.

I know I speak individually and collectively for the membership of this House of Commons when I say that in all the congratulatory messages delivered since the opening of this twenty-first parliament there is one which up to now has not been included, one group which has not been sufficiently recognized. I refer to the group who, by the grace of God, have placed us where we are today. I refer to our parents, who would have been proud indeed if they had lived to see us here. Whatever we may have, whatever we have done or may do, we owe in large measure to the example set by them, to the knowledge we gained at our mothers' knees. I believe all will agree that anything good within us, anything worthy of our country and of the esteem of our electorate, is largely traceable to our inheritance, both by example and by blood.

Burrard, in particular, is similar to other constituencies in Canada so far as its basic composition is concerned. By this I mean that the electorate in all constituencies offer one of the most interesting studies in human nature. They are a cross-section of Canadians from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the people whom you and I, sir, are permitted to represent in this august assembly.

Before I deal in more general terms with