

*The Address—Mr. MacDougall*

the economic welfare of the taxpayers of Canada and also add to the prestige of our nation through the impetus of excellent direction in foreign as well as in domestic affairs.

So now, Mr. Speaker, I come to the three points with which I wish to deal tonight. The first one is internal trade; the second, war veterans allowances; and the third, pensions for the blind.

At this time I want to say that our Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) deserves the thanks of the people of Canada for the magnificent way that in the past he has been able to deal with the natural products of our country. We are today in a most happy position, yet at the same time in a rather difficult position, in that we have a great surplus of many products. I am not anticipating the answer to the problem, but I do believe that with the concerted effort of our ministers and the members, regardless of politics, we will find a solution to the problem of our surplus products before the conclusion of this session. It would seem to me logical to state the success or failure of this session will depend largely upon our ability to meet the challenge that is staring us in the face in so far as these surplus products are concerned.

You will recall that during the last session the Minister of Trade and Commerce led a delegation to Central America with results that are, to say the least, encouraging. However, we do require a greater response than we have had up to the present time, not only from South America but from all the markets of the world. The situation with respect to marketing is one to which we must all give some serious thought.

Consequently, I believe this. I stated it in my campaign; the people of my riding endorsed it, and I am sure the public throughout the length and breadth of this country will more or less agree with it. I am setting down no recipe that must be followed. We have approximately fifteen million people in this country. By and large, they have considerable of that folding money. They are a ready market; they are a willing market, and they are a cash market. We do not have to extend I.O.U.'s to them. In the light of that situation, it would seem logical for us to establish a department of internal trade.

Some years ago we had such a department, but in the shuffle it has more or less lost its identity. When I mention this, I am not suggesting that the government should follow exactly what I say. We have in the cabinet able men, some of whom have more onerous

responsibilities than others. I suggest that one of those who has less responsibility should have an extra portfolio, without additional indemnity; that would be the portfolio of internal trade. This afternoon I spoke to the Secretary of State (Mr. Pickersgill) and stated that I was going to make this suggestion tonight. I suggested that he might be the man to handle the portfolio. He did not say he would like to do so, but I am sure if the government insisted, he would do it. We have a problem in the development and expansion of our internal trade, interprovincially and throughout the various areas within each province. I am quite sure that with a real spirit of co-operation behind such a move a great forward step could be taken toward the disposal of our surplus natural products.

I leave that suggestion with the government and hope they will take cognizance of it. Some months ago we passed an anti-combines act. I do not think any act passed by this parliament, as it is originally drafted, is a perfect act. I do not think our anti-combines legislation is perfect. Unquestionably there are some bugs in it. If there are bugs in it, then the minister responsible for the development of internal trade could act as a clearing-house for a freer exchange of marketable products between each and every province in Canada. I think that of itself would be a good thing. It might not accomplish everything we expect, but if we go a step farther than we have gone so far, then we can say we are progressing and that is something.

Some months ago we all had something to do with Bill No. 181 which, as you know, had as its purpose the advancement of the position of the recipients of war veterans allowances. I supported that bill in committee. Because the bill did not go sufficiently far, the Canadian Legion has sent a pamphlet to the government asking that additional advancement with respect to war veterans allowances be made at our early convenience. With that sentiment, Mr. Speaker, I am in complete agreement. I might add also that the government, which needs no wiring for sound, recognizes now that the burnt-out pensioner has an economic problem that is well-nigh too burdensome for him to bear.

We have been fortunate, and I hope we shall continue to have a free exchange of individual and collective ideas with regard to our veterans legislation. In other words, in our legislative program and in our approach to the veterans problems, we have acted in concert. To the maximum possible we have