

Hon. Mr. ROEBUCK: Why did eastern Canada not get a better price than that?

Hon. Mr. BURCHILL: These prices were arranged with the British Timber Control by our Maritime Lumber Bureau with a view to giving the producer a fair margin of profit. There has always been a kindly feeling in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick towards the United Kingdom, and so they did not seek too great a profit.

Hon. Mr. LAMBERT: May I ask the honourable senator what year these figures are for?

Hon. Mr. BURCHILL: 1947. I am sorry if I said 1946.

With the shortage of dollars in 1948, the British Timber Control is not at present a buyer, so the Maritime lumberman for the first time in history has no immediate prospect of selling any softwood to the United Kingdom next year. This means a greatly reduced cut, with the resultant unemployment. The Canadian government have co-operated by doing the only thing they could do to assist under the circumstances. They extended the free quota of 290 million feet—which formerly was restricted to the United Kingdom—to the markets of the world, provided, of course, we can find markets which can pay us in American or Canadian dollars.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES: Where is Great Britain getting its softwood from, if it is not receiving it from Canadian markets?

Hon. Mr. BURCHILL: From British Columbia. I am just coming to that.

As it stands at present, the only contact which eastern Canada has been able to retain with the United Kingdom market for 1948, beyond a small quantity of hardwood, is the renewal of a supply of 150,000 cords of pit-props, which are necessary for the coal mining industry.

Our British Columbia friends, whose industry is not so seasonal as ours in the east, are in a happier position, for they made a sales arrangement with Britain which will carry them until June 1, 1948. While we have always admired the keen business ability and progressive character of our friends in British Columbia, including those in the lumber industry—many of whom got their background and some of their training in the Maritimes—I want to pay special tribute to their achievement in making a sales contract with the British government on terms which, in addition to selling the stock in British Columbia, includes an extra item of approximately thirty precious Canadian dollars per thousand

to rail a lot of it across the continent to ports on the Atlantic seaboard. I take off my hat to the British Columbia lumbermen.

Hon. Mr. QUINN: Is that British Columbia lumber being sold at the same price as the eastern Canadian lumber?

Hon. Mr. BURCHILL: No. They have their scheduled price out there, which is higher than ours.

Maritime lumbermen have enjoyed the finest co-operation from the government all through the difficulties and problems of the past few years, and are hopeful that the present situation is but temporary and that before long currency arrangements will be worked out which will permit the resumption of trading through normal channels.

Before I sit down I want to support my case by adding a word of evidence from a public utility.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: But first, could you tell us something about the apple crop of the Maritime Provinces?

Hon. Mr. BURCHILL: I am sorry that I have no information about the apple business. My honourable friend from Kings' (Hon. Mr. McDonald) is an authority on apples, and he will complete the story.

As I say, I want to add a word of evidence from a public utility. The telephone business is regarded as a fair index of current conditions. The records show that in the province of New Brunswick, as in many other provinces, the demand for telephone service has reached an all-time high. At the beginning of this year there were approximately 5,000 people in New Brunswick waiting for telephones, and although 4,563 installations were made up to the end of November there still is a list of deferred applicants numbering between 4,000 and 5,000. I believe this is the experience of telephone companies operating in other sections of Canada.

Let my honourable friend from the West get whatever comfort he can for his party out of some temporary difficulties in western agriculture; I am afraid there is small hope for his party in the Maritimes. I am sure my honourable friend from L'Acadie (Hon. Mr. Léger) who lives in the thriving, expanding and prosperous city of Moncton, will bear me out when I say that conditions there are very satisfactory. And if any further evidence were needed, the results of recent by-elections in the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, along with those of the recent provincial election in Prince Edward Island, would indicate that the policies of the present government are