

Mr. SPEAKER: I would ask the hon. member for Hants-Kings (Mr. Ilsley) to take his seat.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, I was observing when I was interrupted that business was a rather complex matter in these days, and I was trying to point out what was involved in the exports and imports of a country. I have endeavoured as best I could to point out what this government has done with relation to these matters, and I repeat that with the economic situation now existing in Canada, we dare not in any sense lessen the markets which may be available for the products of this country without facing the responsibility of putting Canadians out of work. That is what it means.

The observations made by hon. gentlemen opposite this afternoon that the business was largely from British Columbia is not borne out by the facts. Sixty per cent of the newsprint which entered Australia and New Zealand came from eastern Canada, not from the west coast.

Mr. BRADETTE: What about it?

Mr. BENNETT: Because of the speeches made by British Columbia members it has been asserted in the house this afternoon that this was purely a British Columbia matter.

Mr. BRADETTE: Is the hon. member sorry that that business came from other parts of Canada?

Mr. BENNETT: Could anything be worse than that—an hon. gentleman rising in his place and asking me if I am sorry that this business came from eastern Canada and not from the west? It is the old story of the east against the west; they cannot conceive of a man living in western Canada having any but a prejudicial feeling against the east. I wonder if the hon. gentleman realizes that most of us were born in eastern Canada and went to western Canada to live, and that we believe in one Canada, not nine Canadas or a divided Canada. That bears out the observations of the hon. Minister of Railways when he said that we must not permit benefits to accrue to the east at the expense of the west. He was reported as saying that the other day at Brandon when he accepted office.

Mr. CRERAR: I think my hon. friend is quite mistaken.

Mr. BENNETT: The press may have reported it wrongly. It is not a question of east or west, it is a question of Canada as a whole. When the Australian treaty was

made it was made for the whole of Canada, not the west alone, and when there was an effort this afternoon, as there has been on other occasions, to make the house believe that this is a purely western business, the fact is that sixty per cent of the newsprint imported into Australia came from eastern and not western Canada. It is true the fish products came largely from the west, but other articles came from Cape Breton; there was steel from the British Empire Steel Corporation. As far as I know there are no steel plants in western Canada. The products mentioned the other day by the hon. member for Hants-Kings were products produced in the east and not in the west.

Mr. BANCROFT: I hope my hon. friend has not forgotten that there is a large steel plant at Selkirk.

Mr. BENNETT: I do not think that plant carries on a very large export business with Australia; as I understand it, it is engaged largely in the melting of scrap.

In view of the circumstances to which I have alluded, this house will be well advised—I wish my hon. friend to the left had withdrawn his resolution after it had been discussed—to realize that the time is not ripe for the abrogation of this treaty. In saying that, I want the government to understand clearly that I for my own part, and for those who are associated with me, reserve the right to insist on the abrogation of that treaty should conditions arise to warrant that step being taken. If Canadian industry is placed in the future upon a solid basis, under an intelligent and a sane fiscal policy which will restore prosperity to Canada, that treaty, along with others, must be subject to revision. The Australians already have intimated that that is their intention, and we on our part cannot be solely in control of the negotiations.

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (Minister of the Interior): Mr. Speaker, I thought we were supposed to be discussing the Australian treaty, but after listening for an hour and a quarter to the remarks of the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett), I begin to wonder whether we are discussing the Australian treaty or the general economic situation.

Mr. BENNETT: The one arises out of the other.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I do not propose to spend very much time in discussing the general economic situation, but I would like to refer to a few matters which we have heard mentioned so frequently from across the