

The world has failed to appreciate the value of any of the great political objectives which were expressed in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference, but it has at least lived to see this very practical suggestion evolved from the aspirations and idealism of that time.

In spite of the very spectacular and interesting discussions that took place at the last two meetings of the General Assembly—and I hope at a later date my colleagues who were in attendance at New York will have something to say about those meetings—I do not consider that anything which occurred during the proceedings compares in importance with the development that has taken place under the auspices of the International Trade Organization, which is one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations. In my opinion the Geneva Charter, which is to be followed by the more general principles embodied in the Havana Charter, represents a practical road to world peace. This document is equal in importance and in every respect to the United Nations Charter, which passed both houses of our parliament in 1945. In dealing with it we may well feel that we stand at a very important and critical point in the history of this country and of the whole world. I do not particularly desire at any time to deal at any great length with the tariff details and provisions which are included in the various schedules of the charter. The fact is that it lays a basis for the evolution of a new world out of a very drastically changed one; and any person who has tried to maintain an objective and detached view of what has gone on throughout all the continents—not only during the war but immediately after it—must realize that the world has changed.

The United States gave leadership to this movement for wider trade, and initiated the proposals; and it was under the auspices of that country that the first conference took place. It has shown a most generous and wise attitude towards the adoption of a policy which will carry out some of the idealism of the late President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill, as expressed in the Atlantic Charter.

If we can approach in the proper spirit the adoption of the resolution or agreement which has been so ably presented to this chamber by the leader on this side, we shall at least capture some of the true purpose of the recommendations which have come to us from Geneva.

In conclusion I should like to pay tribute to the representatives of this country who sat in the Geneva conference and helped to work

out the details of the tariff agreements made amongst the seventeen countries.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. LAMBERT: In many years of Canadian history I do not know of any work that has been accomplished that is more important than the work done by our delegates to Geneva. Headed by Mr. Wilgress, Mr. MacKinnon and Mr. Deutsch, they gave six months of their time, patience and ability to achieving something which other countries, such as the United States, have recognized, by giving Canada her full share of credit.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. LAMBERT: I do not know of any work done by representatives of our civil service which compares with the contribution made at the Geneva conference by the men I have named. This charter is a sort of glorified jigsaw puzzle composed of fragments of the debris and devastation that have covered the world since the war, and the completed picture represents the beginning of decency and normality for human beings in the years to come.

Hon. W. RUPERT DAVIES: Honourable senators, I wish to express my appreciation of the excellent and able manner in which the leader of the government (Hon. Mr. Robertson) presented the resolution to us this afternoon. I should like to say too that I fully agree with the commendation by the honourable senator from Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Lambert) of the good work done by the civil servants who represented Canada at Geneva. I might mention that when this group of officials went to London a little over a year ago, I crossed on the same ship, and every morning and afternoon they held sittings at which they worked away at the presentation they were going to make on Canada's behalf. They are most earnest, sincere and patriotic Canadians.

My principle reason for rising at this time is to ask the honourable leader if he can tell us what is going to be the position as to trade with Russia. Is this general agreement being made by a number of nations which will more or less trade among themselves and leave Russia and her satellite countries out of the picture altogether? What exactly will be our position as to trading with Russia when the resolution now before us has been passed and the general agreement is completed?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I think that our position as to trading with Russia will be no different from what it is today. Her exports