

*Supply—External Affairs*

source region of the interior, giving access to all the possibilities for development in British Columbia. But we must not limit ourselves to these possibilities alone. There are other provinces in western Canada, each one of which is benefiting to a notable extent from trade with Japan at the present time.

No Canadian who travels over our main line railways or over the trans-Canada highway these days can fail to be impressed by the large number of trains moving to the west coast carrying coal, great loads of sulphur from the petrochemical industry of Alberta, copper from the interior of British Columbia, newsprint, lumber and other products of the western region of Canada which are pouring into the Orient, particularly into Japan. This is apart altogether from the movement of wheat and other grain.

The noise in this chamber at the present time suggests to me that eastern members may find this to be a boring subject of no consequence to them. I would point out to them that there is another movement west, and no one who drives along our highways can fail to be aware of it. I refer to immense trainloads of farm equipment moving from the industrial regions of eastern Canada to the western provinces—trainloads of equipment which would not be needed and which could not be paid for were it not for this earlier movement to the Orient of grain and the other products to which I have referred.

This is one aspect of our relations with the Pacific—the trade aspect, perhaps a selfish one. But on this basis, following the path of the merchants, we could develop a diplomatic program reaching out beyond the Pacific region itself to southeast Asia and to India. There is tremendous interest in this region but I am afraid there is now only a tentative sense of Canadian identification with it.

There is one other subject to which I should like to refer, and it is a related one, that of foreign aid. The minister will recall the success of the program undertaken by the Canadian government in 1959-60 in connection with the international refugee year by means of which 300 families of tubercular refugees were brought from Europe, treated for their disability, found work and rehabilitated with the result that they are now integrated into the Canadian life and economy. They found useful employment, and not only did we provide them with new opportunities but they provided us with new skills, talents and people with tremendous enthusiasm because of the kindness and humanity Canada had shown them.

Of course we have no such program now. There is not, perhaps, the same requirement for such a program. The hard-core tubercular cases no longer occupy European camps; certainly not to the extent that they once did. But could we not perhaps draw on our experience of that particular program, benefit from the success of it and give the lead in a fresh approach to the same kind of program? Could we not, using the experience of that program, try another experiment? In our foreign aid and technical aid programs we go out to the underdeveloped countries throughout the world and endeavour to assist them. We make them gifts of food and provide assistance in training, the building of physical plant, and so on. We endeavour to lift their economy so they can provide for their own people. But we know that in regard to many of the overpopulated countries of the world, whatever the rest of the world can do involves a long and slow process; and some of these countries will never be able from their own resources to provide for their own people because there are simply too many people for them to sustain, even with the most advanced development of their economy.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, can we not, in an experimental way in the beginning, draw on our experience in the tubercular refugee program and reach out in the world and accept into this country, say 100 families annually from overpopulated countries, families which know illness, poverty and hunger—all the disabilities that poverty stricken economies have imposed upon them; families for whom in their present circumstances there is no hope and can no longer be any hope. I suggest that we bring these families to Canada. Let us treat those that are ill, educate, train and rehabilitate them and establish them here as Canadians. I realize that we have still to provide for many among our own people; but despite that we are still one of the great and rich nations of the world. However, much we may still have to advance in our own economy, we are so far advanced as compared with the rest of mankind that we cannot stand selfishly by and assume that we have all these benefits by divine right, or that we can retain them without accepting a greater degree of responsibility for the unfortunate people of the world than we now accept.

I think we should persuade the Canadian people that we can today, at least in the beginning on an experimental basis, take and completely provide for at least 100 families annually. While it is not much, while it is only a token, it would at least provide some