

recommendation made at that conference. One of the first acts of that government was to appoint a minister of cooperatives to encourage the cooperative movement in that province.

(b) each nation examine its laws, regulations and institutions to determine if legal or institutional obstacles to cooperative development exist, in order to make desirable adjustments.

Yet we find that in Canada the cooperative movement has been asking for years for a dominion cooperative act to clarify its position with regard to taxation and several other matters. It has not yet received that consideration from our government. Instead we have shirked our responsibility and thrown the whole matter into the hands of a commission, thereby keeping the cooperative movement in Canada, at a time when it should be expanding, in a static state and endeavouring, one would almost think, to stop its growth.

(c) full information as to the present development of cooperatives in different countries be made available through the permanent organization recommended in resolution II.

In Canada we have very little conception of the tremendous growth of the cooperative movement throughout the world. I must admit that I myself had very little conception of the growth of the cooperative movement in Great Britain until last fall when we were privileged to visit there. We were entertained by the cooperative wholesale society of England and by the Scottish cooperative wholesale society. They took us down to the Thames in London and showed us a flour mill owned by the cooperative there, the largest flour mill in the world, a flour mill which produces every day enough flour to feed a million people. They told us that they were producing fifty per cent of all the flour produced in Great Britain. We were taken up to Scotland and shown the tremendous cooperative development in that country.

When the British government asked the people of Great Britain in 1940 to register the stores with which they wanted to do business during the war so that there would be a fair distribution of supplies forty-two per cent of the people of Scotland registered with the cooperatives as the stores through which they wanted to do their buying. We were shown the banks which the cooperatives had started in Great Britain. Last year these cooperative banks did over five billion dollars' worth of business in Great Britain. The cooperatives are the greatest merchandising organization in the British empire. They have their own tea plantations in Ceylon, their own shipping facilities, their own factories and their own distributing centres. I believe that in the aftermath of the war they will be one of the stabilizing factors in Great Britain.

World trade and the freest possible exchange of goods are necessary if living standards are to be raised in the world. Manipulations of exchanges and tariffs to secure profit and provide gain must be eliminated. We believe that only in this way can a world of plenty be built when war is outlawed. If Canada is to export, as she must if our agricultural industry is to be prosperous, she must be prepared to import. This was emphasized by everybody we met in Great Britain last fall. It did not matter whether you talked to members of the labour party, the cooperative associations, their boards of directors, or the Conservatives, they were all agreed that so far as Great Britain was concerned she had to find markets for her products if she was to import the necessities of her people.

Great Britain's ability to raise the standards of living of her people, or even to maintain them are dependent on this. She has been and will probably remain the greatest market for Canada's agricultural products. If we are to retain that market it will be necessary for us to readjust our economy so as to use more British-made goods. Great Britain has one great asset, her ability to produce quality goods and materials. Nowhere else in the world can you buy better quality leather goods, woollen goods, china or cutlery than in that country. Unfortunately, before the war the financial position of the average Canadian citizen was such that he had to be satisfied with secondary grade articles because they were cheap. We found our shelves in this country flooded with trash and cheap goods. When you looked at them you almost invariably found stamped on them "Made in Germany" or "Made in Japan". We bought them not because we preferred them, not because we would not rather have bought better quality goods that could have been supplied by Great Britain, but because we could not afford the better goods. If we again allow the purchasing power of the people of the Dominion of Canada to be decreased by the lowering of the prices of agricultural products, or the lowering of our wage scales, or by unemployment, we shall find ourselves in the same position once more.

One of the chief aims of our delegation to San Francisco should be to secure the freest possible flow of goods between nations, and we believe that this can be done only by one of two methods. A great many people, a great many newspapers and many members of this house say we must export, but they say very little about importing. They say we can solve all our problems by exporting more goods. We in this group believe that if we are to obtain export markets we shall have to be