

the members of this house when it is in session but are constantly being drawn upon from every quarter of Canada whether the house is in session or not.

I have in mind some of the work that might be done by the bureau but which is not done at present, and which so far as I can ascertain is not in contemplation at the present time. For example, we have no complete figures on credit and currency matters going right back to confederation. It is true that in recent years the exigencies of monetary problems have brought about a realization in the bureau, as well as in the department itself, of the importance of accurate figures in these matters, and there has been a marked improvement in this regard, but still we have to analyze the information further back in order to have the record complete. Then there is another matter which I know is very dear to the heart of the minister, that of trade between this country and the United Kingdom. The minister will realize that even at this moment there is no means by which we may estimate correctly the total volume and the balance of trade as between the two countries. A few years ago, when I made a close study of this subject, I found that if adequate corrections were made to ascertain the actual destination of shipments of grain from Canada, it would be found that our figures did not tally in any respect with the British figures as to the reception of Canadian grain. If the allowances were made which were justified by the British figures, we would find that instead of Great Britain buying, according to the popular expression of that time, nearly twice as much from us as we bought from her, the actual position was that she was buying approximately the same amount.

I wonder if that question has been gone into further and whether the department is in a position to designate the destination of the trade movements from Canada and so enable us to reach more accurate judgments as to trade movements and balances as between nations. In my opinion, which I am sure the minister shares, it is essential that the information we acquire in matters of this kind should be as accurate as it is humanly possible to get it, and I hope this matter is not being overlooked. Doubtless there are other questions involved in the work of the bureau, but at this stage I will content myself with paying my personal tribute to the efficiency of the head of that bureau and the active cooperation I have always received from him and from the staff. I hope that at no time, either under this or under any subsequent

[Mr. E. J. Garland.]

government, will any attempt be made to curtail these activities.

Mr. STEVENS: Mr. Chairman, the two main problems to which my hon. friend has referred are very difficult and very complex; they are engaging the attention not only of the bureau of statistics and its experts in Canada, but also of the statisticians of European countries, and in fact of all the leading countries of the world. Measurable progress has been and is being made towards the harmonizing of these trade figures. Let me take the first item to which my hon. friend refers, namely, the production of statistics which will give a correct view of the economic relations between, we will say, this country and Great Britain. That involves, of course, the question of actual goods shipped from the one to the other, both ways, the amount paid for services in, we will say, freight and cargo rates, the amount involved in interest on investments in this country, and possibly a few the other way; the question of insurance and the question of tourist expenditures pro and con. These are the main factors. There are some other invisibles of smaller and lesser importance. The statisticians of both countries have, I believe, a fairly accurate concept of the value of the services and the invisibles which enter into these calculations. There are no definite records. For instance, as regards shipping it is not disclosed what is paid for British shipping or Norwegian shipping and so on. These things are not reduced to their precise dimensions. But there are yardsticks which are commonly used by statisticians the world over for bases of estimates which are adopted and accepted, and these I believe are used with fair accuracy by our bureau. I believe last session I gave the house a picture of the statistical relations of Canada with the United Kingdom.

In regard to the second question, that is the movement of goods, chiefly grain, I think we might say that the balance of the goods moved is really not a serious matter. In connection with grain, however, it is serious. Cargoes are cleared from Canada nominally for the United Kingdom and, so far as our records show, they are exported to that country. We do know definitely however, that a very substantial portion of these shipments and cargoes are diverted to other ports. We can only estimate, and we do that by various means. Of course the chief source of our knowledge is the British import information by which we are able to get fairly accurate statistics. I believe it was about four years ago I personally made an analysis of these figures, and found that Canada was