

*Government Organization*

stop, because our textile industry is not doing too well. We tried to survey the industry to find out what is wrong and and to seek solutions.

In that regard, we have met experts of the departments concerned, and in particular the minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) in order to discuss all the aspects of the matter—because there are many of them—and we are continuing to consider them.

We have been particularly pleased to discover, while doing that work, that officials of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce and of the Department of Finance have been carrying for several months an exhaustive, thorough and realistic study which will take into account every aspect of the problem.

I would like, for example, to ask the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Ricard) if among spinning factories and footwear manufactures which seems to be in jeopardy, there would not be a large number of them which are in a bad way due to weaknesses in their administration, because they have forgotten, for example, to follow the present business trend and make necessary investments to keep up-to-date.

I can quote, for example, a rather large textile plant of my area called the *Wabasso Cotton* which has some 2,200 or 2,300 regular employees in the Trois-Rivières area. It manufactures high-quality products, such as those sheets and pillow-cases which are so popular and are made in our district. It also manufactured material for dresses and several other purposes. This is an industry which had foreseen new business trends. For instance, synthetic products appeared on the market and consequently cotton was of course less and less in demand. That industry realized that exchanges are nevertheless necessary between Canada and other countries if we are to maintain our external trade. We must sacrifice a few things and avoid excessive protectionism. We must rather head toward freer trade if we truly want to encourage the development of our trade.

A few years ago, the *Wabasso Cotton Company* saw that this was in the offing. The directors of the company invested considerable amounts of money to renovate their plant and then started manufacturing new products. For instance, you can now find on the market an excellent synthetic product that really sells. Research has come up with no-iron sheets

and pillow-cases, not to mention wash-and-wear shirts. Those people engage in all kinds of research.

Instead of experiencing the financial difficulties of others, that spinning mill now employs a great number of people and is blossoming forth. Of course, like everybody else, they could do without imported shirts from Hong Kong, Korea or elsewhere. It is obvious this may be an ideal situation in theory, but, from a practical standpoint, if you want to sell things to those countries, you have necessarily to buy things from them.

I was saying that a thorough study was carried on which the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and the Department of Finance, in an attempt to set up reasonable quotas, not through coercion, but as a result of agreements, negotiations and discussions with those countries. According to the information at hand, and I can pass it on to my hon. friend on the other side of the house, because he must know—

**Mr. Ricard:** Mr. Speaker, I can say to the hon. member that up to now he has not tell me anything new.

**Mr. Mongrain:** I shall then go on in that connection—

**Mr. Ricard:** I know all that, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member does not have to repeat it.

**Mr. Mongrain:** Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member knows it, he does not seem to understand, since every time he rises, he blames the minister.

**Mr. Ricard:** I was not blaming him; I was asking him to co-operate.

**Mr. Mongrain:** It will then have to be repeated three times.

Moreover, these departments are attempting to find means to streamline only those undertakings which are unable by themselves to survive for all kinds of reasons. They have already found for some of them outlets not previously available. It is good to divulge such things so that the rest of Canada does not think that the government is not concerned with that problem and that it would be quite simple to say: Tomorrow morning we will put a stop to the importation of shirts and textile products, thus permitting our industries to flourish.

There is another problem which the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe could consider once in a while since, if I am right, he is