

they did not know what to do about it. They could not venture any more under the system of scarcity which is essential to private capital.

Mr. JACKMAN: They had ventured too much.

Mr. MacINNIS: The hon. member for Rosedale remarked that Canadian business does not want the government to engage in trade. But fortunately the government is not just representing Canadian business. The number of businessmen who have put this government into office, or, for that matter, any other government which might hold office here, are infinitesimal as compared with the population of Canada. Surely the rest of Canada should receive some consideration.

Mr. JACKMAN: I was speaking for all of them.

Mr. MacINNIS: My hon. friend failed to speak for all when he spoke. But he did speak definitely for Canadian business. He told us what Canadian business did not want and what it did want.

I am satisfied that whether we in this house like it or not, we have entered into a period of bulk buying and bulk selling. I quite understand that this bill is not intended for that purpose. Nevertheless it is a step in that direction, and one which is made necessary by developing conditions. I am willing to take one step at a time, provided that those steps are taken soon and often enough.

This party welcomes the measure, and that is all we shall say until we have an opportunity of studying the bill.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Golding in the chair.

Mr. GREEN: After the enthusiastic remarks of the hon. member for Vancouver East, I suggest that the government should give careful consideration to the bill. When there is such enthusiastic support of a measure which appears to be moving toward socialism it is time that ordinary Liberals, or those members who call themselves Liberals, should look under the bed to see just what the measure contains.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: We might find a Tory under there.

Mr. GREEN: Is this corporation intended to be a permanent agency of the government, or is it only temporary and intended to operate during the transitional period from war to peace? I gathered from the minister's statement that the government intends to have the corporation carry on permanently.

[Mr. MacInnis.]

That is directly contrary to the intention shown by the order in council. I would refer hon. members to the preamble of the order in council which reads:

Whereas the Minister of Trade and Commerce reports that by reason of the continued existence of the national emergency arising out of the war against Germany and Japan, it is advisable for the purpose of facilitating the readjustment of industry and commerce to the requirements of the community in time of peace that the order hereinafter set forth be made.

That preamble clearly shows that when the order in council was drawn the intention was that this corporation would be of a temporary nature. Paragraph 4 of the order sets out:

The corporation is established for the following purposes:

(a) to assist transition in the development of trade between Canada and other nations during the period of transition to normal from the exceptional trading conditions existing during the war, and

(b) to assist during the aforesaid period His Majesty's Canadian subjects—

(i) to obtain goods or commodities from outside Canada, and

(ii) to dispose of goods and commodities that are available for export from Canada.

I think there are one or two other references in the order in council which would lead one to believe that the corporation is to be just of a temporary nature.

Mr. MacKINNON: That is correct.

Mr. GREEN: What is the intention of the government with regard to the permanency of this corporation?

Mr. MacKINNON: The bill is intended to take care of the needs of Canadian business during the transitional period and only as long as it is required by Canadian business.

Mr. GREEN: Can the minister give us an estimate of the length of time the corporation will be required? The government must have given consideration to this factor and it would be helpful if we knew.

Mr. MacKINNON: From appearances at the present time we expect it will be a short period.

Mr. GREEN: Two or three years?

Mr. MacKINNON: Two or three years.

Mr. GREEN: Can the minister explain why this work could not be carried on by the Canadian export board? Apparently that board operated effectively during the war in purchasing non-war goods for export, and it does seem questionable that a corporation should be set up. There is a further feature. The Canadian export board was directly under the department and therefore more closely under the control of parliament. I may be wrong,