

*The Address—Mr. H. O. White*

with commonwealth countries in an economic way. They have tied our trade system to international control.

I believe we all admit that the theory of GATT is probably an ideal in today's unsettled world, but we, along with our United States friends, are a practical people. Being practical, how can we tolerate a trade policy that fails to take into consideration our inflated economy, a 48-cent dollar, our high prices and high standard of living with consequent high production costs as compared with many of the other countries competing in the markets of the world with our Canadian products? Labour, may I suggest, is fully aware of the fact that tariffs protect not only industry but the labourers in industry. I need refer to only one industry in our economy in that connection, the textile industry. Just here I might interpose the question, does Canada want a textile industry?

The government has continued to ignore the Canadian producer in deference to the consumer cost of living index. In other words, they are more interested in cheap consumer goods than in employment. I make reference here to just two items, textiles and cheese. When I speak of cheese I am bound to ask what has become of the much vaunted price support program that the party in power has told us about throughout these years? Now that the farmers are in difficulty the government has sabotaged our great basic dairy industry. I want to ask, of what advantage is it to the housewife to have cheap consumer goods if her husband is unemployed and she has not the wherewithal to buy them? What benefit is it to thousands of Canadian farmers who have had extremely poor crops this year and are not in a position to purchase these so-called cheap goods?

In my area of southwestern Ontario there are hundreds and hundreds of acres of white beans under the snow that are unharvested and never will be harvested. They will be a total loss. There are thousands of acres of soybeans as yet unharvested, and there are many thousands of acres that never will be harvested. This applies to corn as well. I assure the government that the purchasing power of agriculture in southwestern Ontario has been severely reduced.

I want to mention also that, necessary as it is, the tinkering with unemployment insurance payments will never cure the causes of unemployment. Again in the speech from the throne the unemployment problem has been soft-pedalled and underestimated. Many hon. members recall the slogans of the Liberal party in the days of Mackenzie King, the

full dinner pail and later on full employment. Apparently the government has forgotten about that. Canada, with her vast natural resources which my leader so aptly mentioned this afternoon, is the last country in the world that should be suffering from unemployment. If we would just process and market the natural resources of our country instead of importing employment from abroad, we would provide work for our people. What we actually need is a revised fiscal and trade policy.

I am just going to mention here that what we need is a policy designed, as was Sir John A. Macdonald's, on the basis of tariffs for the protection of labour and industry, not a tariff for government income as exists today. Many tariff items should and could be reduced if it were not for the government's failure to put their house in order and practise economy.

I just want to say a word here to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Harris). I sympathize with him, as did my leader this afternoon, in the difficult task he has undertaken. This year the city of London is celebrating its centennial year. Some time ago it was mooted that London would issue wooden nickels, and there was a suggestion to the effect that this would not be allowed. Anyway, they have issued the wooden nickels; and I would point out to the minister that no longer can Canadians demand gold for the dollar bill, which is also made of wood. When I think of the resources in the city of London I believe I would just as soon have their wooden nickels, because they are convertible in that city, and that is where I purchase most of the things I buy.

Last week we observed a triumvirate of the cabinet going, hats in hands, to Washington to, let us say, get a better deal, or a new deal, or some kind of deal over there, but coming back empty-handed. Canadians have been led to believe that an aura of infallibility surrounds cabinet ministers, but I think what we have seen happening in the last few months has destroyed that state of mind, and that it will never be believed again. Their very purpose in going to Washington was to avert the catastrophe that we in the opposition have been pointing out to them for many years, when we said that they have been putting their trade eggs all in the American basket. History has shown over the years that the United States is not a dependable market.

There is also the question of the resignation of Mr. Graham Towers, hailed in this country as a financial wizard who could not be wrong. Does his resignation presage some change not altogether welcomed by him or by the government? There is more than appears on the surface, in my estimation.