

The Address—Mr. Rowe

of our warning. It is said that history repeats itself. I have been in this house long enough to see the party that sits to your right lose the British market on two occasions. Now they have lost it again. I am glad that the Prime Minister at last has said, "I will take hold of this myself; these other boys are not doing very well".

Mr. Fraser (Peterborough): Here is hoping he can do better.

Mr. Rowe: Yes, the hon. member for Peterborough can say that, but I am afraid his hopes are a little bit late. It is extremely difficult to have much influence at a conference in which you have not taken much interest before.

We wish him good luck, Mr. Speaker. I hope he has a safe voyage, and I hope he has good luck. He is an influential man in Canada, and I hope he is over there as well. Even some of his own followers agree with that. There are matters, I feel, to be considered at this coming conference in connection with the expansion of our trade, not only the sale of our wheat but other farm products as well. In fact, the sale of our other farm products has practically disappeared. We talk about our great advancement. We were told by these travelling salesmen, who have been going all over the world at great expense, that there was no danger of losing that market. We are selling the United Kingdom less mixed farm products than we did 40 years ago; in fact, we are selling practically none. The convertibility of exchange, and other subjects, are vital not only to the Canadian farmer but also to producers generally in Canada.

It seems to me it is about time that these gentlemen who have been going all over the world looking for markets, looked a little more east and west, and realized that our most favourable trade balances throughout the years have come from our trade with the United Kingdom. We would be very much interested, therefore, in knowing what the agenda of this conference is going to be. It seems to me almost contrary to our parliamentary practice to have an important conference such as this coming along when no one in the house really knows the subjects with which the conference is going to deal. In fact, I wonder if the Prime Minister himself knows. I hope that if he does he will let us know something about the agenda before the event is over.

In any event, I do believe that the people of this country expect the Prime Minister of the senior dominion of this great partnership, the British commonwealth, to be the leading

influence in strengthening our British relationship and to do everything he can to restore the markets that have been lost under his party's government.

I am sure my colleague the hon. member for Royal (Mr. Brooks) will have read the speech from the throne with a little chuckle to himself. He will feel he has been useful here, and he will be glad that at last the government has heeded his plea on behalf of the war veterans, as indicated in the speech. I know the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra (Mr. Green) will be happy, because on so many occasions I have heard him trying to blast out that Ripple Rock near Vancouver. I know he will be glad to learn the government has listened to him. No doubt the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) will be disappointed because, after pleading for that Saskatchewan dam for some ten years, he has to reconcile himself to the fact that it will be brought up at the next election campaign.

The hon. member for Queens (Mr. MacLean) will be happy, too, when he learns from the speech from the throne that steady progress is being made towards the inauguration of the new ferry service, and that after all his pressure this service is going to be established between Prince Edward Island and the mainland of Nova Scotia this summer. These are some of the spots that glitter a little bit.

The hon. member for Hamilton West (Mrs. Fairclough) and the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Starr) will also be happy to observe from the speech from the throne that their sustained pressure has brought some results and that the Unemployment Insurance Act is to be amended by way of increasing the supplementary benefits during the winter months, when it is expected unemployment will be worse than it is at present. On behalf of my colleagues in the official opposition, I thank the government for at long last responding to some of these pressures in connection with these local and municipal problems.

However, the dark realities and the dangerous trends that are stalking before the people of this dominion are all carefully ignored and recklessly disregarded in the speech from the throne. Why, Mr. Speaker, it does not show a fair picture of Canadian conditions at all. Can it be that this government has grown so strong that they think opposition is unnecessary, so strong that they think opposition has very little place in the present trend of events? The government has