

religion, just as bad as those described by my hon. friend. Just before coming to the house to-night, I happened to put my hand on an article in the *Readers Digest* for February, 1939, entitled *Nazi Scapegoat No. 2*, and that scapegoat is catholicism. Perhaps some literature which is there described would be just as objectionable to my hon. friend as that of the communists. For instance, when they speak of "Roman internationalism, the ally of communism;" when the *Angriff*, which is a very important paper, sneers at the "abnormal alliance between the clergy and Marxism", and when the *Völkischer Beobachter* speaks of the "criminal attitude" of the Catholic church and its Muscovite ally—well this as far as possible is all barred propaganda, and we ought to do our best to prevent it from being circulated or carried on in Canada.

I am getting reports from pretty good sources, reports which do not go to everybody, and I may say that there is literature propagated in Canada which comes from other than communist sources which as far as possible we would like to check the circulation of in this country. The trouble is that even with the best postal regulations this is a difficult matter to control. For instance, under their regulations the postal authorities do not open what is called first class mail matter, letters and so on; and I think hon. members of this house would be opposed to giving power to any minister to open private letters just because there might be some suspicion that there was something objectionable in them. I know by experience that much of this objectionable propaganda is being sent in sealed letters. Only a couple of months ago a gentleman brought me a letter which had been addressed to him, enclosing a very, very objectionable piece of propaganda literature, at the end of which was not the anvil but rather what the late head of Christianity described as a hooked cross which was not the cross of Christ.

I repeat, Mr. Speaker, that the postal regulations are sufficient in this regard. I know that in some quarters the mere fact that I do not accept my hon. friend's bill will be branded as a friendly act on my part towards communism, but I say the bill is more restrictive than the regulations are to-day. My hon. friend sent a copy of his bill to the premier of Quebec, and of course I find no fault with that. My hon. friend received that gentleman's blessing for the introduction of the bill, and with that also I find no fault. But in his letter, which he took care to publish in the press, the premier of Quebec attacked the federal government. With that I find no

[Mr. E. Lapointe.]

particular fault, either, because we are accustomed to it; but he said he could not understand why this government had issued passports to communists who went to fight in Spain. This is not true. In 1937, as the house remembers, this parliament enacted the Foreign Enlistment Act, which made it a crime for any Canadian to go and fight on either side in the Spanish conflict or for anyone to recruit for either side. When that act was passed, an order in council also was passed prohibiting the issuing of passports to anyone for travel in Spain. As a matter of fact, all passports issued during the last two years contained that exception, reading as follows:

Not valid for travel to Spain, the Balearic islands, the Canary islands, and towns and territories under Spanish sovereignty in Africa.

No doubt some of the twenty odd thousand people to whom passports have been issued each year by the Department of External Affairs found it possible to go to Spain, but not because of their passports. They went there illegally, and just in passing I may add that I know of someone who certainly was on the other side of that conflict, who found a way to get to Spain without having a passport permitting him to do so. But how could the government control that? More than that, in the Foreign Enlistment Act, which made it a crime for a Canadian to enlist or recruit for enlistment in the armies of either side, there were provisions for penalties. All these were put under the sections of the criminal code. Under the law as it is now, if crimes were committed because of that Foreign Enlistment Act, the British North America Act—and I hope I shall not get on the nerves of anybody by mentioning that act—provides that it is the attorney general of the province who must put into execution any penalties of this kind. So perhaps this will give food for thought to those who criticize us in this matter.

Under the circumstances, sympathizing as I do with the purpose which my hon. friend has in view, a purpose which, if such a bill were necessary at present, I would enlarge to apply to other forms of subversive propaganda in Canada, I do think this is unnecessary. In our laws we have all that is required to permit the control which could be exercised by the Postmaster General in this regard.

TRADE AGREEMENTS

CANADA-UNITED STATES—CONTINUATION OF DEBATE
ON MOTION FOR APPROVAL SUBJECT TO
REQUIRED LEGISLATION

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Mackenzie King that the house