

at an all-time high level. That fact, however -- extremely important in itself -- is only part of the story. We have succeeded in reaching a unique position -- one which, I believe, is without precedent. We have a high level of trade, coupled with a high level of trade restrictions. That is not what we have been aiming at. What we really want is to have the former without the latter -- the high trade without the high restrictions.

As matters stand now, we have gained one material part of our post-war commercial objective. The other part, almost equally important, we have still to win. The target that was set several years ago -- and set very largely in terms that were written or inspired by the United States -- is that of a commercial world characterized not only by expanding trade, but also by the greatest measure of freedom from restrictions. The part of this objective that has already been realized has not been easily gained. It has called for unselfish, co-operative work on an enormous scale. The part that still remains to be accomplished may prove to be even more difficult to attain. It will certainly not be accomplished if there is any letdown, either in the co-operative nature of the attack upon the problem, or in the readiness of each of the free nations to make the kind of contribution that will serve best to promote the common purpose.

Our two main objectives from this time forward are: first, to bring about a further expansion of trade; and second, to get rid of the restrictions that prevent the free world from making the most effective use of the resources available to it.

I do not suggest that the two can be regarded as being independent of each other. To some extent, however, they lend themselves to separate consideration, and I wish to say something first with special reference to some of the factors that have a major bearing on the prospects for the expansion of trade.

Increased trade is rooted in increased production. International commerce had its most spectacular period of growth during the 19th century. In a very real sense that was the golden age of commercial expansion. It wasn't simply a matter of the development of immense virgin areas, such as those of North and South America, Australia and Africa. The whole structure of world production and world trade was being enlarged, in the older countries as well as the new. It was a century of economic growth in every quarter of the globe.

Part of the expansive power of the 19th century, but not all of it, has carried over into the present century. Looking at North America alone, we can, no doubt, claim that the momentum has been well maintained -- and even increased. The same might be said of other regions, but it is very questionable whether it can be said of the world at large. It is not merely that we have suffered the disastrous setbacks of two world wars, or that there has been an inevitable shrinkage in the areas of virgin territory that are now available to new enterprise. A third factor, and a very formidable one, must also be taken into account. The opening up of new frontiers to international trade is now being offset -- perhaps more than offset -- by the closing