

last met, I feel that our honourable friends from the West will have to allow us Easterners to infer at least that the majority of western farmers are satisfied with government marketing of wheat and other farm products.

**Hon. Mr. Howard:** No doubt about it.

**Hon. Mr. Burchill:** I mention this because, at this moment, as a result of the lack of United Kingdom markets—a matter very admirably dealt with a couple of days ago by the honourable gentleman from Inkerman (Hon. Mr. Hugessen)—we in the Maritimes have a real marketing problem on our hands.

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** No, no.

**Hon. Mr. Burchill:** We are a practical example of what the lack of United Kingdom markets can do to Canada. In our section of the country it can affect the standard of living of virtually every citizen in the community, and therefore I can endorse in a very real sense everything said by the honourable senator from Inkerman about the importance of United Kingdom trade to Canada. In my province of New Brunswick, and in Nova Scotia, the business of shipping spruce lumber to the United Kingdom is older than the Dominion itself. Unbroken business connections with British importers—in many cases with the same firm—have been maintained for generations. In short, honourable senators, the business is an integral part of the whole economy of the provinces.

During the war years the industry responded in splendid fashion to the demand for wood and more wood, and exported to Britain every foot of timber that vessels could be found to lift. In the year 1940 exports to Britain reached 400 million superficial feet, and last year nearly 130 million superficial feet were shipped. The industry is geared to supply the sizes and specifications required over there.

Nor is that the whole story. When war broke out our people were asked to supply pit-props, so vital to the British coal industry, as these were no longer available from Scandinavian sources. A purchasing commission was set up by the United Kingdom government at Moncton, and our woodsmen were taught the technique of producing and preparing these props. Since 1940 this business has been most active, and in its various branches in certain sections of the province has employed many hundreds of men and trucks. The work of loading and shipping in itself provides and circulates a great deal of money. Last season about 300,000 cords were shipped from Maritime ports on about 150 ocean tramp steamers.

Now we are advised that, because of the dollar shortage and the drop in prices of pulpwood on the continent, Great Britain's pit-prop requirements will be obtained from Finland and other Scandinavian countries—

**Hon. Mr. Horner:** And Russia.

**Hon. Mr. Burchill:**—and that Canadian dollars will be conserved for other commodities not obtained in the dollar areas. Honourable senators will readily see what this will mean to the people of my province, when the means of livelihood of a great many workers disappear overnight.

I would be the last person to criticize the British people or their government, who through the years have endured and spent their accumulations on a war in which everything was at stake for all of us. With all respect for what my friend from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck) said yesterday, I may say that I heard the Archbishop of York, who spoke in Halifax the other day, describe the Britishers as a tired people—tired of bombs and rockets—who, while getting enough to eat, are certainly not enjoying the nourishing food that is served on the tables of our Canadian homes.

Honourable senators, international trade is a two-way street, and it is clear that if we want to sell we must find a way to buy. How badly trade is out of balance was indicated by the figures of 1948, which showed that Great Britain bought \$1,600 million worth of goods and sold only \$600 million worth to the dollar areas.

In the Maritimes section of this country, where United Kingdom sales mean so much, we would be glad to use more British-made goods. I can see little objection to a *quid pro quo*, if such were possible to arrange. Unfortunately, it is not. We buy most of our goods from Ontario and Quebec; but those provinces buy little, if anything, from us.

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** Shame!

**Hon. Mr. Burchill:** With the best will in the world to increase the buying of British goods in the dollar areas, I submit that there are three factors which enter into the picture. The first is price; the second, exchange rate stability, and the third, tariff. On the question of tariff I am prepared to go a long way with the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck); but as stability of exchange is essential for the day to day business of trading, I am wondering if we have yet reached a sufficiently normal trading period to allow currencies to find their own levels. At the moment I am concerned chiefly with the factor of price.

I think most honourable senators will agree that the chief reason for the decline of purchases from Great Britain when indications