

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** The purpose of their visit is, as members of the Japanese Parliament, to study the Canadian parliamentary system. I am advised that under the post-war constitution of Japan the system of government there bears a strong resemblance to our own. The delegation, therefore, is particularly interested in such matters as the procedure by which bills are passed, the working of party government, and the background showing how, in a democracy, political parties are formed and developed. Included in the delegation are members of the Secretariat of the Japanese Diet, who are concerned with administrative questions. The delegation has been visiting the United States Congress and State Legislatures.

On behalf of this house—and perhaps my honourable friend the leader of the opposition would like to associate himself with me in my remarks—I extend to these visiting members of parliament and those associated with them our heartiest welcome.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** We wish them well in the great experiment upon which they are embarking, and if there is anything in our procedure or experience which may be useful to them, we shall be happy to make it available to them. I might remark, however, that, in view of the long experience of the East in all matters of public concern, it may not be long before we should make a visit to our eastern friends to benefit from what they, too, have discovered.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. John T. Haig:** Honourable members, I join the leader of the government in welcoming to our chamber these distinguished parliamentarians from Japan. Within recent years we were at war with that great nation, and we did our best to prevail. We are now at peace; and I join with other members of this house and with all our people in the hope that a peace treaty with Japan will soon be adopted and that in its new parliament Japan, as an independent nation, will pattern its affairs on a democratic system similar to those at work in Canada, the United States, Great Britain and other democratic countries. In Canada we believe in democracy not for purposes of democracy but for purposes of freedom, whereby all men and women have rights, and each has the same rights as any other.

We Canadians welcome these distinguished visitors from the Island Kingdom. We hope they will gain something from their experience here, and that Canada and Japan, as

two of the world's Pacific peoples, will soon be able to trade together to their common advantage.

On behalf of the party of which I have the honour to be leader, and perhaps I may speak also for the whole house, I will say that we as Canadians want all the world to be free. We do not believe in the system under which some of the world's democracies are being carried on: we hold that all men and women should have the right to live their lives in freedom under the law.

Again, on behalf of the party that I represent, I wish our visitors a pleasant and educative time in Canada and a safe journey home. I hope they will carry to their people the good wishes of our own.

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** We must bear in mind, honourable senators, that as we return to normal peace-time conditions, competition in the export markets of the world will become increasingly keen. The over-all problem is to attempt to shape our national policies while taking all facts into consideration.

What is the nature of the goods and services which we are most likely to be able to supply competitively? How are we to be paid for them in a manner which will enable us to discharge our own obligations? The pattern of our exports in 1949 is relatively clear. Agricultural products and those related thereto accounted for over one-third of our \$3 billion of exports; the products of our forests, to something less than one-third; and the product of our mines, to approximately the same amount; miscellaneous items making up the balance. In any possible pattern for the future, it will probably be found that the major natural resources, which we enjoy in such abundance, will form the basis from which we can produce competitively the goods we are most likely to sell in export markets. It is highly likely that, based on our natural resources, we shall be able to produce competitively a surplus of goods over our needs. The problem is whether we can market these goods, and this problem will revolve around future international trade arrangements and the ability of our potential customers to pay.

Forgetting for the moment the manner of payment, so far as our national payments were concerned the over-all relation between our receipts and expenditures in 1949 was reasonably satisfactory. Our excess of imports from the United States over our exports to that country was in the neighbourhood of \$450 million. We exported \$1 billion worth of goods to the United Kingdom and the countries of the Commonwealth and Empire, and we bought from them goods to