

External Affairs

men who should be well informed on this matter, and see how few of them are here, and how almost none of them are paying any attention to this vital point, I think they would be impressed.

Mr. Pouliot: The hon. member's speech is most interesting.

Mr. Blackmore: It faces actual facts; it has meat; it contains the things that must be met, and that is all.

Optical glass used to come from England, France and Germany thirty-five years ago. By world war II the United States used \$12,500,000 worth annually. She bought abroad only \$2 million worth. That shows how fast she has grown with respect to optical glass. Now the United States produces any and all types, so good-bye to another source of United States dollars for England, France and Germany.

Then as to cigarette papers; the United States used to get them from France. She used to buy \$10 million worth of them annually. Now she produces all she needs from flax fibre, and good-bye to some more United States dollars for France.

If I may, I should like to stop and say just a word or two to my Conservative friends. I hope we do not hear any more of them talk aimlessly about convertibility until they realize that convertibility is absolutely impossible unless goods are traded back and forward so that convertibility would be justified; and that is just exactly the situation that does not exist in the world. There is not the necessary interchange of goods and there cannot be. When we face these things, we shall stop talking in this house about vapour.

Silk used to be obtained from Japan. The United States used to get 80 million to 90 million pounds annually. The United States now produces nylon, from coal, air and water of which she has a superabundance, to the extent of half a billion dollars worth a year.

The United States used to buy soya beans from Manchuria; now she produces 200 million bushels a year. The United States used to buy figs from Turkey and Greece. Now she produces over 60 million pounds of figs annually.

Mr. Pouliot: They are pretty smart, those Americans.

Mr. Blackmore: That is right. Not only are they smart but they have the resources; and above all they have sense enough to protect their own industries so that their industries can develop. They do not do as we did with our celery producers this year. We had celery producers in Ontario who produced a great deal of celery and who went to the expense of putting it in cold storage. Then we brought

in a great deal of celery from the United States, causing our producers to lose the whole thing. If you can imagine a finer example of just exactly how not to run a country, I should be glad to have you call me up and tell me about it; I am interested in monstrosities. But the United States had sense enough not to do that; hence she has grown.

The United States used to get their dates from North Africa and the Middle East. Now the United States produces more than 20 million pounds of them annually. She used to get chicle from Mexico and Guatemala. Now she produces it synthetically. She used to get tungsten from China and Bolivia; now she uses molybdenum in large measure. She used to get shellac from India. Now she makes shellac from synthetic resins or she displaces it by substances which she draws from corn gluten. She used to get jute from India. Now she makes burlap bags from tough, long-fibre spruce kraft paper.

There is an indefinite list of items in addition to those I have mentioned, including Christmas tree ornaments she used to get from Germany and Czechoslovakia, which she now produces. She used to get pig bristles for brushes from China. Now she uses nylon bristles. She used to get dried pyrethrum flowers, for use in insecticides, from Japan and Africa. Now she has synthetic, American-made chemicals. Indeed, economists estimate that the United States produces 94 per cent of its needs. Economists predict that the United States will soon be producing one-third of the world's goods, with only a small percentage of the world's population: it is something like one-sixteenth or thereabouts; I have forgotten the exact figure.

These are weighty facts. Will the United States import much in the future? In the article in the *Reader's Digest*, the writer is whistling in order to keep up his courage. Mr. Walker talks about the few things which the United States will have to import such as critical minerals for the military stockpile, bauxite for aluminum, platinum, tin, chromite, cobalt, manganese, a few foods like tea, coffee, and bananas, and French perfumes, laces, champagnes, and china. Then there will be the "invisible" imports which will result from shipping space in foreign vessels which the United States will hire—and she is getting rid of them as fast as she can—and dollars spent by United States tourists. All things being considered, I am afraid Mr. C. Lester Walker is rather optimistic when he finds some comfort in that aspect of the whole question. He presumes, too, that the United States is not going to make any more discoveries about how to make synthetic substances.