

risen far beyond the reach of many pocketbooks. If Mr. King does not realize this, let him stop giving advice to the United Nations long enough to hear what Canadians are saying.

The Prime Minister's policy is one of deliberate and needless delay. Action, not talk, is the need of the moment. Here are some things that should be done at once and which the government possesses full power to do:

1. Suspend the 8 per cent sales tax on essential commodities;
2. Reduce some of the other multifarious taxes which affect foodstuffs;
3. Strengthen and expand the staff of the combines investigation commissioner and send them into immediate action not only to expose but to prosecute those persons who are taking advantage of conditions to hold up the Canadian consumers;
4. Give immediately, to those who produce the nation's goods and services incentive to increase their production.

The Prime Minister should start doing these things today. With an alleged surplus on hundreds of millions, the government still imposes an 8 per cent sales tax, as well as other taxes on essential commodities. Take those taxes off. Prosecute illegal profiteers immediately. The machinery has been available for years. With these two things done, the situation will be greatly eased.

But the chief cause of high prices is shortages. The most urgent need is to expand production which at the moment is hampered by an inefficient and blundering bureaucracy and hamstrung by a policy of oppressive taxation.

The Prime Minister is mistaken if he thinks he is hoodwinking the people by his pronouncement last night. The action he proposed will do nothing to stem the high cost of living. The government must accept responsibility and not try to shelve it.

MR. COLDWELL: In an interview, M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader, welcomed the Prime Minister's proposal for the establishment of a special Commons committee.

The idea of inquiring into price spreads is a very good thing, he said.

At the same time, he expressed hope establishment of the committee would not delay really effective action by the government to stem rising living costs and halt inflation. The country needed effective price controls and renewal of subsidies.

Of Mr. King's call to the National Liberal Federation for a national convention to decide the party leadership, Mr. Coldwell observed:

That, of course, is a matter for the Liberal Party, but, under the circumstances, as Mr. King himself outlined them, I think it is the proper course for him to have pursued.

He said Mr. King's straight talk about the menace of communism probably will contribute to the bringing about of a clearer understanding by people the world over as to the seriousness of the present situation.

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per cent being directed to those countries. Exports to the United States were 37 per cent of the total; to Great Britain 27 per cent; to other British Empire and Commonwealth countries, 15 per cent; and to all other countries 21 per cent.

Purchases by the United States were valued at \$1,034 millions, which is approximately 16 per cent higher than in 1946. Over one-half of forest products, with newsprint the largest single item. Exports to the United Kingdom were valued at \$751 millions, which is 27 per cent higher than the corresponding figure for 1946. As in preceding years, food products again dominated the shipments from Canada to Great Britain.

With regard to Empire countries, the greatest increase was shown in exports to Australia and New Zealand, which rose from \$54 millions in 1946 to \$98 millions in 1947. A decline, however, was evidenced in shipments to the Union of South Africa and India. Exports to the British West Indies were one-third higher than in 1946.

RUSSIAN MILITARY ATTACHES

NOT INVITED TO CAMP SHILO: The Department of National Defence issued the following statement today:

The Canadian Government has previously expressed its willingness to extend to the representatives of other countries reasonable opportunities for obtaining military information. Visits are arranged to military establishments in Canada for the military representatives of other countries. This is a courtesy extended by nations on a reciprocal basis in accordance with the established practice.

In this way, last year the military attaches of a number of countries were invited to go to the joint testing station at Churchill. The representatives of seven countries accepted this invitation.

On other occasions, additional visits were made to various military establishments.

It has been found, however, that the Canadian Military Attache in Moscow is not given similar privileges. In accordance with the principle of reciprocal treatment, it has now been decided that the Soviet Attache will not be invited to visit military establishments in Canada unless similar privileges are extended to the Canadian Military Attache in Moscow. When the Soviet authorities grant facilities to the Canadian Military Attache in Moscow similar to those hitherto granted to the Soviet representative in Canada and still extended to all other foreign military attaches in Ottawa, the Military authorities will be pleased to restore the privileges granted to the Soviet Attache.