

the war, that the industrialist in Canada has done a remarkable job, that the engineers behind that industrialist have great ingenuity, that they have been able to cut costs at an amazing rate, and that we can stand on our feet industrially to-day with anyone in this world.

An hon. MEMBER: Give him business; that is all he needs.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): The way to get it is to open trade routes. Do that and you will get business. When this war is over, industry throughout the world will have to be rehabilitated. All industry to-day is practically on a war-time basis, and there must be an adjusting period. All industry must change over again to peace-time pursuits, and therefore at that time all industry will be on a level in the world, a level on which it has not been for many years. There are also many controls—war controls, exchange controls, and the controls in the handling of raw materials—which will have to be gradually done away with as we come to the finish of the war. No one to-day can be hurt by the removal of any tariff, because exchange must be turned over to those who are to import into the country and the whole thing is controlled anyway. So that now is the one time that Canada can lower her tariffs or do away with them altogether, without hurting any industrialist, any worker, any citizen of the Dominion of Canada. Therefore, in the budget the government should come down with free trade with Great Britain and the freest kind of trade with the United States and many other nations.

We have had some war-time controls which I do not think have worked altogether to the benefit of Canada. Under the wartime prices and trade board, we have practically closed the American border to the shipment of cattle to the United States. We have done that, but I hope the United States people will not look upon that as a more or less unfriendly act in trade on our part. Some of them may say that at the time they needed beef cattle from us we would not allow cattle to cross the border. It must be remembered, however, that we are giving them a considerable amount of beef in other ways. For instance, their ships that go in the convoys from this country get large supplies to take them over and back. Their people in Alaska, their troops, their construction workers, have received large supplies of beef from Canada, and, as we all know, the north American continent as a whole is short of beef to-day.

Ever since I came to this house in 1925, and I believe for many years before that,

there has been a great lack of appreciation of the importance of agriculture in the Canadian economy. The present Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) and every past Minister of Agriculture has had to battle like a Trojan to get any money for agriculture out of any government in Canada. This has been the policy of all governments in this country. Thank goodness we have not tried the policy which an hon. member who seeks to interrupt me is trying to bring in, but every Minister of Agriculture has had to battle to get sufficient funds to help agriculture in Canada, and I do not doubt that the present minister has made himself unpopular with some other ministers in the government in an endeavour to put forward the rights of the farmer, which I know he does morning, noon and night. But what we need to-day in this country, more than we have ever needed it before, is a forward-looking policy in agriculture. That would be, not a policy for one year, but a policy for at least five years, or for at least two years after the war, whichever may be the longer.

The situation on this continent to-day is this. The United States and Canada, the two greatest food-producing countries in the world, are shipping considerable supplies of food to the united nations, and while doing that are having to cut down, to some extent, on the amount of food being used by their own people. For some years the United States put into effect policies of curtailing production in agriculture. At the present time there is only one product that is even called a surplus product in Canada and the United States, namely, wheat.

As I said before in this house, and as I will say again, all of that will be needed by the end of this war, or immediately after the war is over. When the war started there were those in Canada who thought it would not be well to bring down a policy with regard to hogs, butter, eggs, cheese or milk, because we would get ourselves into a position where we would not be able to sell them, and we would have surpluses. But that has pretty well all gone now. There are shortages in respect of all those commodities to-day, as far as the needs of the united nations are concerned.

We must plan for the future, for the war, for the period after victory, for bargaining with people who need food, and for the feeding of people as our armies go forward. Canada must be the chief supplier of these commodities. As quickly as possible we must accumulate stock piles of food, in order to feed the people of the united nations, and the