

The Address—Mr. Pearson

provide those countries of Asia with exchange for the financing of additional Canadian imports.

On this aspect of our journey I hope my colleague the Minister of Fisheries will report later in this debate in more detail. On our journey every effort was taken to explore the possibility of increasing and expanding Canadian trade with the countries visited. Without exception, wherever we went we found not only a great friendship but a lively interest in achieving that objective of greater trade. In Tokyo, for instance, we had one discussion with General MacArthur devoted exclusively to trade matters, and he expressed his great desire to do what he could to increase Canadian-Japanese trade. He added—and this is an addition which will be of particular interest to my colleague the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. McCann)—that there was no desire in Japan to indulge in commercial chicanery of the kind that disturbed us in Canada so much in the years before the war. He went on to say, and I hope he is correct, that we now had a guarantee against dumping by Japan in the removal of government subsidies on the one hand and the building up of the trade union movement, with protected wages, on the other. Therefore he considered that Canada need not fear in the future the menace of Japanese trade of the pre-war variety, but could rather look forward to trade built on a sound basis of mutual benefit. I told him that was the kind of trade, and indeed the only kind, in which we were interested.

I apologize for trespassing on the indulgence of the house. I must have long since exceeded the time allotted to me under the rules.

Some hon. Members: Go on.

Mr. Pearson: I should like to say just a word about one or two of the countries we visited on the way back; and the political situation we found there. After the conference, we first visited Pakistan. We were all very much impressed by the drive and energy of the essentially frontier, desert town of Karachi, where the capital of a new nation is being constructed in a hurry and in the face of terrific obstacles. The achievements of two years in that country of Pakistan have been notable, to say the least. The difficulties facing Pakistan are very great, but they are being met in a spirit of eager and deep patriotism. In fact, to those people Pakistan seemed almost as much of a religion as a state. I know that all hon. members will be glad to know that the Prime Minister of Pakistan, who is one of the great statesmen

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of that part of the world, on his trip to this continent will before long be visiting Canada as a guest of the Canadian government.

We left Pakistan after an all-too-short visit, and our next stop was India. He is indeed a brash person who attempts to say anything about India on the basis of a visit of two or three days; but it was impossible not to be impressed by the potentialities as well as the problems of that great country. We stayed at New Delhi, but we had the opportunity also of seeing something of Indian village life, where life goes on as it did centuries ago, though even there the people have been stirred. We spent in New Delhi the last three days of the old era of India under the crown and we left New Delhi the day the republic was proclaimed.

My colleague and I had the privilege of attending in New Delhi the last state dinner given, in the state dining room of the viceroy's palace, to the last governor general of India under the crown; to Mr. Rajagopalachari, the colleague and disciple of Gandhi for so many years. It was difficult to visualize in him the last in a long line of succession from Warren Hastings, with whom indeed he had little in common. I think all of us felt that the atmosphere that night was heavy with history. Yet it was good to know that the break with the monarchy which was occurring the next day was not a break between peoples; in fact, the relations between the Indian people and the other nations of the commonwealth are probably on a friendlier and stronger basis now than they have been for generations. Mr. Nehru, that great man and great Prime Minister, was presiding that night at this dinner. He had himself been the king's guest at Buckingham palace and in various of His Majesty's jails; and when he rose and proposed the king's health, we felt that it was no empty gesture. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that we in this house and in this country wish the people of India well; we wish for them good fortune and great success as they face, as a republic, the great opportunities and the difficult problems which lie ahead for them.

There was, however, one shadow which fell across our proceedings in Ceylon and our visit to Pakistan and India; that was our knowledge of the existence of a number of serious and stubborn disputes between the governments of those two countries. These questions were not, of course, included in the agenda of the conference; and none of us considered it his business to attempt to intervene in them. There were, however, occasions to discuss these questions privately and informally at the conference, and later in Karachi and New Delhi. I myself was reassured by