

she can get in goods, services, and cash from Europe in return. If we sought to cover by loans or grants the entire difference, we should soon find our own position impossible because we would no longer have the funds to buy the things we must have from the United States in order to stoke our economy and continue to produce the things that Europe must have from Canada. We hope to be able to meet a part of that difference in cost in one way or another, but we cannot yet be sure how much we can do.

The possible financial contribution of Canada to a continued European recovery program over the next few years must still, therefore, be designated by the algebraical symbol "x", the unknown quantity. The possible contribution of the material things from Canadian production needed for European restoration can be much more accurately calculated. It is much larger than many people in this country think. Although Canada has only one-twelfth the population of the United States and one-eighteenth of the national income, her total foreign trade in the latest period for which figures have been published amounted in value to one-fourth that of the United States; and Canadian exports are for the most part basic essentials coming from the farms, forests, mines, fisheries and factories of Canada.

While Canada has had to cut down on a large number of imports from the United States, there is one import which we are very anxious to increase, and that is the importation of visitors. Tourists pass through the hands of customs officers, but they do not figure in the import statistics. Although they are in fact both very tangible and very welcome and certainly enter the country just as visibly as a carload of coal, in the strange language of the statisticians they are known as invisible exports and count on the other side of the balance sheet of a country's payments. That, of course, is because they bring their own currency into the country and spend it there. The receipts in Canada from the tourist traffic have in recent years been a welcome offset to the Canadian deficit in U.S. dollars.

Now rumors seem to have been circulating in the United States to the effect that conditions of life in Canada are hard, that food is scarce, and that it would be well for tourists to stay away. Sometimes these rumours are supplemented by suggestions that everybody entering Canada is subjected to a very rigid customs examination. I hope that all of you who are here tonight will take any opportunity that may offer of exposing the absurdity of these stories. There is plenty of food in plenty of variety in Canada. The customs examination at the border is indeed more severe than it used to be, but only for Canadians returning from the United States. No change whatever has been made in the practice affecting American visitors. I doubt that an American visitor would notice any real difference as a result of the Canadian restrictions, unless he were an addict of pulp magazines or insisted on eating out-of-season vegetables.

We do not welcome tourists from the United States only for the dollars they bring. It is through this constant and intimate association between the peoples of the two countries that knowledge and appreciation of the qualities and efforts of each has been spread abroad. Visitors from the United States act in some degree to leaven the prevailing ignorance of Canada to which I have already referred. In addition to our need for dollars, it is greatly to be hoped that the tourist traffic will be maintained and increased partly because the Canadian Government has been compelled to restrict the movement of Canadians in the other direction. As Canadians cannot go South as readily as usual to see their friends in this country, I hope that those friends will go to Canada more freely than usual.