

*Economic Rehabilitation*

be done. But why is it not done? The writer of the letter mentions both highways and railways. Surely we can build highways suitable for the servicing of a Halifax that will be the finest port on the whole Atlantic seaboard. If the government can build the St. Lawrence seaway, do not let anyone tell me that it cannot build the port of Halifax if it chooses to do so.

Let me read a little more:

Physical facilities, however, are not, in themselves, enough, though they will be of value in developing port trade. The value of such non-physical facilities was recognized by governments, prior to 1935-1936, by the granting of special tariff concessions to those who imported goods through Canadian ports.

Note these words with particular care:

This tariff preference resulted in retaining for those ports more than 90 per cent of Canada's overseas import trade. It was destroyed by a trade treaty—

By whom? Not the Conservative party, but the Liberal party. Notice what it goes on to say:

This tariff preference resulted in retaining for those ports more than 90 per cent of Canada's overseas import trade. It was destroyed by a trade treaty with the United States in 1936, which treaty had the effect of opening the ports of that country to Canadian business. As a result there was a heavy diversion of traffic from Canadian ports.

No Liberal can escape the blame which is attached to the present administration in Canada for that trade treaty, or for permitting that trade treaty to stand. In a general way one would say that any government of Canada which would sign a treaty which would do that kind of thing to the city of Halifax was utterly unfit to govern the country.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Blackmore:** Oh, I do not think there is any doubt about it. After all the promises that were made to the maritime provinces before confederation and since confederation, to have a thing like that done constitutes worse than an abject betrayal, and there can be no other way of putting it.

**Mr. Murphy (Westmorland):** Halifax is the only prosperous place down there.

**Mr. Blackmore:** You had better tell that to Halifax.

**Mr. Murphy (Westmorland):** If you would sit down I would tell you the truth about Halifax.

**Mr. Blackmore:** If one cannot rely on the solicitor for the city of Halifax in preference to the hon. member for Westmorland with respect to this situation it would be a most amazing thing. Let us go on. The hon. member for Westmorland will have time to

rise in his place and talk, so let him please let me say what I have to say. I do not care whether he does or not; I am going to say it.

Now I go on to the bottom of page 3, and I quote these words:

Therefore, it is submitted some adjustment should be made in the tariff system, or some other measures should be taken to ensure that the protected industries, if they are to enjoy that protection, should channel the shipments of their goods over Canadian railways and highways and through Canadian ports.

I left off certain words about Canadian industry which would have connected up with the part I quoted, but the general idea is that protected Canadian industries in our central provinces were beginning to ship their goods down to United States ports to the neglect of the Nova Scotia port of Halifax. He points out the fact that those industries could at least take the trouble to channel their trade to the port of Halifax if they want to be anything like square.

**Mr. Nicholson:** He will agree with that.

**Mr. Blackmore:** You would think so. One of the reasons the maritimes have never got anywhere, let me submit, is that they have sent to parliament members not to fight for them, as the member for Cape Breton South has done, but to rise in their places and excuse the neglect which those provinces have suffered down there for these many years. They rise in their places as proponents against their provinces and not for them.

**Mr. Murphy (Westmorland):** I would not say that.

**Mr. Blackmore:** Well, it is time you did, because you stand condemned. A lot has been said about the amount of time that has been spent on the wheat question. Do you think that if we had Liberals and Conservatives sitting where the C.C.F. and the Social Credit groups are sitting you would have had the case for the prairie grain growers put in the way in which it has been put in the last few years? The only thing that caused the Liberals to talk in favour of wheat farmers was the fact that they were being put to shame by the work being done by these two independent parties. That is all right; just do not make smart retorts to explain the situation. You just cannot explain these things. Why in the world the electors down in those maritime areas do not become awakened to this thing I cannot understand.

**Mr. Knowles:** They will be.

**Mr. Blackmore:** It is just about time they began to realize they have been standing in their own light for years and years by sending up men here to parliament who were committed to support the government instead of the maritime provinces.