

*Supply—Trade and Commerce*

that is a situation which is going to develop from time to time, and I think if we handle the situation as it should be handled, and if the wheat board promotes the selling of our wheat in co-operation with the people we are going to deal with we will eventually be able to dispose of our crop.

But up to the present time, since the present government came to office, we have not been too lucky or, shall I say, too fortunate, in our handling of wheat. I think that as time goes on we will be able to sell greater quantities, and I think we can only do that by developing the greatest possible co-operation with the two great countries with whom we are so closely associated in trade. First, the United Kingdom. We can find the best agencies in the United Kingdom to dispose of our wheat that there are anywhere in the world. Britain is a trading nation; they must trade if they are going to exist.

With regard to the United States, there is a difficulty which I must call to the attention of the minister, and about which I hope he can do something. I tried to take some action, when I was in the government, and the former minister of trade and commerce also discussed the matter, but we did not accomplish anything. Up until the middle of the last war there was no embargo on wheat going to the United States, but since 1941 or 1942 there has been an embargo; we are not allowed to sell any wheat for human consumption in the United States or, at least, our maximum is 800,000 bushels, which goes in on the first day.

The two greatest agencies outside Canada for marketing wheat are in the United States and Great Britain, and I think we must co-operate with both in order to dispose of the quantity of wheat which we have for sale. I suggest that the next time a group of high level men goes down to Washington they should take up this question. I know it has been discussed there before, but it could be discussed there again. There are arguments on both sides, I know, but the men who produce the wheat are anxious that the government should take advantage of every opportunity there is to sell their product. And one of the opportunities, particularly in years when our wheat has a high protein content and the United States wheat has a low protein content, is that of marketing a very considerable part of our wheat through the mills of the United States—maybe not in the United States, but in other countries. At other times we should be able to market a considerable part of our wheat through the mills of the United Kingdom as flour to be sold elsewhere. We must keep these two things in mind if

[Mr. Gardiner.]

we are to sell the enormous quantities of wheat which we produce in the west.

I am not going to say anything further than that now. When we are discussing some of the items in the estimates of the department I may have something further to say.

**Mr. Harkness:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could say a few words now with regard to what the hon. member for Melville has just said?

**The Chairman:** Would the hon. member for Mount Royal mind allowing the Minister of Agriculture to speak?

**Mr. Macnaughton:** Mr. Chairman, I was indeed interested to hear the short report the minister made, in particular the commendation of the trade commissioner service. It seems to me that the minister is lucky to be heir to a legacy left him by the former minister of trade and commerce, the Right Hon. C. D. Howe.

I should like also to take the opportunity of expressing my feeling of gratitude for the services of the trade commissioners. On many occasions during the past few years I have found it necessary to call upon them for assistance, and they always knew the proper quarters to which to refer me and others interested in trade matters. At all times they provided the highest form of service with regard to securing and developing of the foreign trade of this country. I wish to pay a personal tribute to this service, which is among the best in the world.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce spoke of the trade mission. Some people have called it a junket to Great Britain but I will not be so unkind as to refer more than once to that. We have heard a good deal about the wonderful reception which the English people, and others in the United Kingdom gave, and are giving to the mission. That, of course, is only natural for English people are by nature extremely hospitable and receptive. Why should they not be when people are visiting them desiring to place orders for the goods they manufacture.

Be that as it may, the British are first class traders. As we know, they live by trade. I make these remarks because I should like the minister to tell us what results he hopes to obtain from this trade mission. I would also ask him to make, in due course, a full report to this house with regard to this matter. The trade mission of course is a matter of extreme interest to the British and naturally so and I think it might serve a useful purpose if I referred to the London *Financial Times* of November 20, 1957 under