

*Supply—Trade and Commerce*

have not been insulting the United States or any other country, as far as I can see; they have been talking as straightforward businessmen, and I am sure this is not going to hurt the trade of either country. I would gather from some of the speeches that have been made that some hon. members feel there should not be an exchange of trade, or that this mission at best is only going to create one-way trade. I do not agree with that statement. I think the more contact we make with any country the more business we can do without hurting our own country, and the more we are likely to sell to them.

Not long ago when I was fortunate enough to spend a few days abroad I heard it said that if we would accept British currency we could do a lot of business with that country. Obviously, if this is true, they must be prepared to do business. Another way of looking at it is that if we can buy from them we can also extend trade and we should be able to sell them more.

I think there are many good prospects, and much of value can come as a result of the trade mission visiting the United Kingdom. No one should expect to see great results within the next month or two. Miracles do not occur in the business world that fast. The minister should not be expected to be one of those who pull rabbits out of a hat, and I do not believe the Canadian people expect him to do so. They do, however, expect this government to busy itself in an attempt to increase trade, which is exactly what the government is doing and in time its efforts will bring success.

If I understood him correctly the hon. member for Meadow Lake said he concluded that the new government has a five point program, although he did not think it was being implemented in the right way. I was very pleased to hear the hon. member say that in the last five months he has come to realize that the government has a five point program, because I am afraid if one were to go back over the last 15 years under the Liberal administration one would not be able to find even a one point program. Perhaps I am a little unfair in saying this; one might find a one point program under that administration, but it will be good news for the people of this country that the hon. member for Meadow Lake observes a five point program in the present administration even though he criticizes it. This government has a dynamic program which it is rapidly implementing, and that is what the Canadian people elected this government to do.

Another important aspect of trade is that in the next few years prosperous firms in  
[Mr. Montgomery.]

Great Britain may be able to establish branches in this country. We require capital, and is not British capital just as good as United States capital? One always associates quality with British-made products, and I feel that much good will come about as a result of the contact between the business leaders of Canadian industry and those of British industry as a result of the visit of this trade mission to the United Kingdom. This could very well lead to the establishment in Canada of branch companies of some of the old country industries.

Before taking my seat I wish to speak about the maritime provinces. We have in the Atlantic region good ports which are open the year round. We are well equipped to do business with countries across the ocean. We are all interested in increasing trade with the old country. We have raw materials to ship out, and the cheapest transportation is by water. Nothing but good can come as the result of increased trade between Canada and the United Kingdom, and its effects will benefit the Atlantic provinces.

Anything that will assist in increasing the prosperity of those provinces, encourage the building up of industry there and increase the exports of the many raw materials available should receive our wholehearted support. Perhaps the trade that will result will not be as large in volume as we would like to see, but I am convinced that benefit will come from the trade mission and the contacts and exchange of information accompanying it.

I would not expect to see tangible results before Christmas, and indeed it may be several months before results are evident. Businessmen are inclined to take their time about such things. I am not a businessman, but as a lawyer I have had some indirect connection with businessmen. I have found that they proceed rather carefully and thoroughly investigate the possibilities inherent in each situation, and I am satisfied that is what will happen in this case.

I congratulate the government on undertaking to send a trade mission to the United Kingdom in an exploratory way. If they buy goods from that country they will create opportunities for sales of Canadian goods, and the trade resulting will be a two-way road which will benefit this country. I congratulate the minister as an old friend, and wish him every success in his efforts.

**Mr. Gardiner:** Mr. Chairman, I am not going to attempt to enumerate the arguments advanced by the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton or to answer them directly. His address held my attention, particularly the part of it in which he commented favourably