

Mr. Moulder said:

"You can't halt progress. When the Suez Canal was opened in 1869 there were dire predictions that it would disrupt world trade forever. Much the same thing was said by opponents of the Panama Canal. But today both those waterways are so much accepted in the pattern of world transportation that we seldom hear them referred to. And so it will be with the St. Lawrence Seaway. Fifty years hence I doubt very much if the controversy over its construction will be remembered outside of history books".

It will be remembered, however, if we can't do the job. I should also like to say a word about the trade aspect of the interdependence of our two countries.

I do not think that to an audience as familiar as you are with the practical details of the movement of raw materials, goods and products across frontiers it is necessary to labour the degree of such interdependence.

The people of Canada have worked hard to make the most of the natural resources with which nature has endowed this land. As a result, our gross national product has increased, roughly 90 per cent in physical volume (and far more, of course, in value) since 1939. In the last trading year, our total foreign trade was over \$8 billion, which is the third or fourth largest in the world.

In the recent economic progress which has been made in Canada, the United States has had an important role to play, and one of mutual benefit. By the end of 1951 she had a \$7½ billion investment in Canada and, in that year, a market here for nearly \$3 billion worth of her goods. Canada is now the largest single customer of the United States, buying from the United States about as much as the entire continent of South America. The trade figures in the opposite direction show that the United States, with a population over ten times as large as Canada, bought last year about \$500 million less from Canada than we bought from the United States. This is something we should think about; and try to do something about.

But our interest in trade is not merely continental; it also includes, for both of us, the rest of the free world. For Canada, we spend about 1/4 of our total income on imports and about the same proportion or more of our total production goes into exports. While foreign trade is relatively of less importance to the United States, its huge volume is of major importance for the friendly countries with which the United States is associated. The policies which the United States now pursues in respect of that trade will, in fact, largely determine the economic well-being and political stability of all those countries.

In a speech which I made at Houston, Texas, last summer I made the following statement:

"I can assure you that we in Canada wish to see international trade easier, and not less easy, both on this continent and throughout the free world. We