

Mr. MacInnis: Hear, hear.

Mr. Fair: I have just given a little history of one of the towns in the new territory. There are many other towns with similar achievements of their own; I have not time to deal with all of them. I think I have given a fair sample of the new territory which has been added to the old Battle River seat.

I now come back to the speech from the throne. I should like to deal with some of the items contained therein. Paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 7 deal with defence, the Colombo plan, the North Atlantic treaty and so on. I will not deal with them except to say that we favour a strong defence; but as far as I am concerned, I do not believe in keeping war factories operating for the purpose of providing employment or avoiding depression. The sooner we get rid of them, with security and with safety, the better it will be for all concerned. Paragraph 8 reads as follows:

Canada's total volume of external trade has reached record levels. But dollar shortages in many countries have persisted and continue to create problems for some of our exporters. Another commonwealth conference with respect to financial and economic matters is to be held in Australia early in the new year.

We have had experiences with similar conferences that were held some time ago, and all I need to do to remind government members and other hon. members, with the exception of Social Crediters, is to refer to what happened in December, 1945, when legislation put into effect the Bretton Woods agreement. If we have the interest of Canada at heart I hope it will teach us to do something different at the next conference from what was done at the Bretton Woods conference so we shall protect our people. We have quite a little trouble with trade today, and if we look back to the source of that trouble I think we can pin a very large percentage of it on the results of that agreement.

Tariffs seem to cause us quite a lot of trouble, and while many hours are wasted in discussion of them, we have not found very many beneficial results. When the President of the United States addressed us here on Saturday last he had something to say in connection with that as well, and I read from his speech, which is found on page 26 of *Hansard*:

The free world must come to recognize that trade barriers, although intended to protect a country's economy, often in fact shackle its prosperity. In the United States there is a growing recognition that free nations cannot expand their productivity and economic strength without a high level of international trade.

The Address—Mr. Fair

In our case, our two economies are enmeshed intricately with the world economy. Obviously we cannot risk sudden dislocation in industry and agriculture and widespread unemployment and distress, by hasty decisions to accomplish suddenly what inevitably will come in an orderly economic evolution.

"Make haste slowly" is a homely maxim with international validity.

In order to bring some of the benefits that we have been seeking for a number of years, particularly since the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) visited London last December and discussed trade and similar matters—though so far as I can see we have not yet received very much benefit from that conference—a joint economic and trade committee has been set up. In connection with the setting up of that committee the President had this to say:

Toward the strengthening of commercial ties between Canada and the United States, officials of our two governments have for some months been considering the establishment of a joint economic and trade committee. This committee, now approved, will consist of cabinet officers of both countries. They will meet periodically to discuss in broad terms economic and trade problems and the means for their equitable solution. I confidently believe that out of this process the best interests of both our countries will be more easily harmonized and advanced.

I am sure we all enjoyed the President's speech, and hope that something worth while will come from the statements he made. Certainly some changes are needed, and the sooner they are brought about the better.

Paragraph 11 of the speech from the throne had this to say:

At home we continue to enjoy general prosperity although there are some sectors of our economy which have been faced with difficulties. Our farmers have harvested the second largest wheat crop in Canadian history. Private capital investment has reached levels never before attained. Employment is at high levels.

In connection with the part relating to farmers I may say that we have had three exceptionally good crops, and the fourth one was also one of the best, although of poor grade and much of it in poor condition. Farmers are not like many other people who can shut down factories and lay off their help.

I have here the Alberta wheat pool budget of August 28 which contains a statement which will give some idea of how some of our industries protect themselves by reducing production while our farmers are left at the mercy of other people in the country. I read:

During the depression farmers do not cut production regardless of the price level of their products. On the other hand, manufacturers cut production, close their plants or operate them on part time and struggle to keep up prices.

In 1935, Dr. Gardiner C. Means prepared a table for the United States congress which showed how