

be necessary to establish a foreign trade advisory service to assist exporters. We must train men for foreign selling—and this in part answers the question of the hon. member for Parry Sound (Mr. Slaght). I hope the Minister of Trade and Commerce will tell us about this when he makes his speech in this debate. We must, as I said, train men for foreign selling and place them abroad, first, among the united nations, and, second, in strategic places where they can facilitate the sale of Canadian goods and act as a medium for the purchase of imports to aid our export sales.

At present not nearly enough attention is being given to the home consumption of our natural products. We should not wait for war shortages to force us from the consumption of luxury foods imported from abroad while our own equally nourishing products lie in storage. Let me take a homely example, so often referred to, the Canadian apple—and here I purpose using a confidential figure with regard to imports of fresh fruits and vegetables and other commodities which are really luxury foods. While the figures are confidential, I do not see anything in them that will give comfort to the enemy, and very little in them that will give comfort to the administration, and I will take the full responsibility for using them.

Last year we imported \$24,476,326 worth of fresh fruits. There is no reason at all why we should not replace a very large portion of this from our own natural production. I mention this to try to encourage and inspire our Canadian people to produce more during the current year. I mention it not so much as a criticism as to bring it to the attention of the Canadian people and of the house. We imported dried fruits to the value of \$5,199,003; fruit juices were imported to the value of \$1,852,067. Our fresh fruit imports in 1934 amounted to \$10,576,033. Even in 1938 they reached the sum of only \$16,000,000, as compared with \$24,000,000 to-day. This trend is an indication of our high living and improvident tastes and should be taken definitely in hand, not only to save foreign exchange, but also to make more of these supplies available to the United Kingdom. These luxury foods should be made available to the people of the United Kingdom and not be brought into Canada. Why should the people of the United Kingdom have to starve for lemons and oranges? Why should traffic on the embankment in London be held up by the sight of a girl eating a banana? The people had not seen one there for such a long time. Our

troops overseas should have first call on luxury foods. Fruit juices of the orange and grapefruit could be very readily replaced by apple juice and tomato juice. This coming year we should produce more and more tomatoes and apples for this purpose and also to replace our heavy imports of vegetables. The Prime Minister has taken some lead in the restriction of beer and alcoholic beverages. As a suggestion, I would say that it might be a simple matter to encourage in some of us who have old-fashioned traits, the consumption of cider to replace this extravagant drinking of beer and alcoholic beverages.

Mr. SLAGHT: Hard or soft cider?

Mr. HARRIS (Danforth): It depends upon the taste of my hon. friend. I say that cider and grape juice could replace this extravagance. Our fruit juice imports have doubled in four years. Our imports of fresh vegetables last year were \$9,190,192; in 1934 they were \$3,545,725. Why should we now be importing almost three times as much and waste our exchange on imported luxury foods when the money is so badly needed for war purposes? Our total import of fresh vegetables in 1939, the first year of the war, was only \$5,338,140, against \$9,000,000 now, which means that we have almost doubled our imports of fresh vegetables since the war began. Not only that, but we are subsidizing out of the treasury the consumer purchase of some of these commodities which are wasting our foreign exchange, while our own fruit and vegetables are running up improvident storage charges and so on.

If we are to have gainful occupation for our people when this war is over, and if we are to have revenue from customs and excise by which we can run the affairs of this country, we should be careful not to let our financial structure in the control of imports entirely collapse. In the matter of manufactured goods, Canadian industry is agreeing to millions of dollars of imports without tariffs while the war is on. The same spirit will prevail during the period of reconstruction. Whereas it is good business for Canada as far as war supplies are concerned, at the same time it should not be allowed to apply to non-essential supplies that have no relation to the war effort.

World trade and world economy changed very considerably and very quickly with the advent of the war. Some two years ago I made a compilation of the world's supply of raw materials. I took the Geneva figures for all the countries of Europe, Africa and Asia, deducted imports and exports one to the other, took into the equation the grand total of production and the grand total of consump-