

Supply—Trade and Commerce

Mr. Blackmore: I have apparently been misinformed in respect of that matter. This reference to Malaya may be digressing a little, but we want to have everything right. With these high prices are the Malaysians able to produce as much as they produced before world war II, before the Japanese ran over their country? Probably the minister is not in position to answer. Whatever the answer to that may be, the simple fact is that if we set up institutions in Canada by which we can produce rubber which Malaya is depending upon in order to get the things she needs, then we shall be depriving the Malaysians, unless some other factor enters into the matter, of the means of getting a living. At the same time we are increasing our invulnerability. The fact is that we are endeavouring to become more and more self-sufficient in respect of every vital commodity.

Here we have the two great American nations, Canada and the United States, situated side by side. These countries possess probably the greatest resources to be found in a similar area on the face of the earth; they possess probably the most intelligent and skilful people in the world; they possess great amounts of capital; they possess the best of industries; they have the greatest amount of know-how, as it is called today. They have a vast consuming public which enables the United States at least to mass produce, thereby cutting down costs. Why in the world should these two nations not be able to become self-sufficient?

When they do become self-sufficient how on earth is any nation outside of those two nations going to be able to get any of our dollars when we will not accept any of their goods? If you want the fundamental trouble in a nutshell, there it is.

An hon. Member: That is right.

Mr. Blackmore: Let us face that fact just as it is and try to figure a way out. Let us not spend our time making insinuations or casting accusations against the United States because she will not let in our cheese or any other commodity. Let us try to find some way whereby the United States can let the nation which wants to send in cheese get United States dollars without sending cheese into the economy of the United States to compete. We will then be working on some realistic basis.

Up to the present time there has not been one word said in this house, except by Social Crediters, as to how Canada can provide Great Britain or any other nation with Canadian dollars except by letting in their goods, no matter how those goods may compete with our own industries and even destroy them.

An hon. Member: Tell us again.

Mr. Blackmore: In so far as I am informed there has not been a suggestion made in the United States, except by the U.S. counterparts of the Social Crediters, as to how they can provide dollars to other nations which need those dollars desperately to buy the goods which the United States needs desperately to sell, except by accepting goods from those nations to compete with the output of American industry.

It surely must be obvious to any ordinary man far less intelligent than the members of this house that there is an absolute paradox there. There is an inconsistency which simply must be dealt with. How to deal with it is the problem. What has the United States hitherto done? Let me recall to hon. members what she did. Right after the first world war the United States found it necessary to lend money abroad, to European countries and South American nations, with which to buy her goods, and she continued to do so until 1928. She kept herself out of a depression by that means during the several years before 1928. How did she provide dollars? She did it by lending dollars abroad. The result was she was able to sell her goods and keep her people employed.

One thing which to me is cause for amazement is that the United States has not put two and two together and figured out a way of providing dollars in a similar manner without lending them abroad. She lent billions and billions of dollars to European and other nations during the years between 1920 and 1928. Then she began to discover that she could not get her interest on these loans because she could not accept the goods of these other nations without destroying her own economy. She discovered further that she would never be able to get her money back unless she accepted such goods, and as she would not accept them she would never get her money back.

What happened then? When the United States ceased her foreign lending policy she went into a depression and dragged the rest of the world with her. Unless she finds some device whereby the difficulty can be overcome she will go into such a depression just as often as she ceases foreign lending. Since world war II what has she done? She evolved the Marshall plan. For what purpose? The purpose was to carry on foreign lending under a different name. We can say all we like about the generosity and magnanimity of the United States, and I honour her for as much of that as entered into the matter, but nevertheless the fundamental purpose under the United States Marshall plan was the urge to get United States dollars into the hands of