

more." Honourable gentlemen, are you aware that some of our good neighbours to the south take their raw materials across to Germany, get them there turned into finished goods, bring them back and pay duty, and lay them down on their own market cheaper than they could get them manufactured at home; and I would not be at all surprised to learn that they also often ship them across the frontier to us. Germany cannot get raw material as with her depreciated currency she has to pay 800 per cent advance on anything she imports whilst France pays slightly over 200 per cent. France wants all sorts of goods for reconstruction purposes. Why should we not furnish them? We have the sympathy of the people of France; they open their arms to us, they only ask that we make it possible for them to deal with us.

I am sorry to see that the ministerial chairs are empty at the present time, and that the advantage we possess of speaking directly to the Government through its representatives, in this House, is denied to me at this time. I earnestly hope, however, that pending the negotiations now going on with France, two things will be done: first, that we will get rid of the shackles—and, mind you, our freedom is within our reach and for our asking. England will not stand in the way; if we only express the wish, she will grant it. Let us be, first of all, free, let us offer to France special privileges in exchange for special privileges. Let us further have the customs duties imposed as they should be on the real value of French currency, and not on a fictitious value, which practically chokes every possibility of trading with a country to which we are drawn by every possible advantage and every possible sympathy.

Let me close by saying that it is good business for us to trade with France, as she in no way competes with our home industries. There is another reason which rises above purely material considerations: France has bled more than any other country, she has assumed a heavier debt than any other country. All of France has been bleeding and paying for all of humanity, and now that she is bravely striving to climb the steep and narrow path that leads her to the far but radiant summit of prosperity and happiness, surely she deserves the help and sympathy of people so deeply moved by her heroic deeds and so greatly benefited by her appalling sacrifices.

Hon. A. B. CROSBY: I wish to second this motion. I cannot find words to thank

the honourable gentleman who has just spoken for the very eloquent, able, intelligent and businesslike presentation he has made to this House. As one very much interested in transportation, exporting, and importing, and very familiar with the conditions of Canada's products for export, the whereabouts of imports we desire, and with the countries that have been mentioned as at a disadvantage in relation to us, and knowing what they take from Canada, and what they cannot get anywhere else, I think the time has arrived when all those treaties with what we call the favoured nations should be set aside. All we have to do is to ask the mother country, who has done so much for us, and has always been glad to meet us on all occasions when we appealed to her on any measure that seemed to be in the interests of this country. This country should proceed at once, without any hesitation or reservation, to bring about conditions that will enable us to treat with those countries with which it is best for us to deal.

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable gentlemen, we are nearing the end of this Session, the time at our disposal is very precious, and we have yet some Bills to which we must give our attention. For this reason I will not prolong the debate on this motion, except to urge the Minister of Trade and Commerce to make the greatest and most diligent effort to arrive at a provisional arrangement with France, so as not to allow a gap to intervene which would dislocate our trade with France. We sold ships to France to the amount of \$20,000,000 last year, and this trade can be developed. We sold wheat to the value of \$11,310,719 and oats to the value of \$884,319. We may not expect a continuance of those sales, but we are justified in expecting to continue the sale of flour, of which we sold to France last year \$5,631,860. We sold her agricultural machines to the amount of \$2,867,542, and lobster and salmon to the amount of \$2,487,060, and that trade should develop. We sold her boots and shoes to the amount of \$1,627,750, and this is a developing trade; and possibly we may be able even under present conditions to continue that trade for some time to come. We sold pulp to the value of \$808,257, and there is no reason why that should not be increased. We sold \$803,671 worth of cheese, and this amount should be increased as soon as the French people learn that the English Cheddar that they have been buying for years from England is really our Canadian cheese, should