

Trade with Caribbean Federation

interest to us. Sugar has always been of interest, and molasses too. Maritimers grew healthy, strong, brilliant and brainy by eating bread on their molasses.

An hon. Member: Bread on molasses?

Mr. Macquarrie: I am glad, Mr. Speaker, that someone has noted the inversion there. Of course, we were so poor that it was the other way around; it was molasses on bread. Yesterday mention was made of the social graces, and I think part of the social graces is based upon another commodity which drew close together the maritimes and the West Indies. I have just noticed a news item in the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald*. It is a report on a businessman discussing trade, and he says:

"We don't import much into Nova Scotia from the West Indies—just rum and fruit juice with the emphasis decidedly on the rum", said one Halifax shipper.

I am sure this was not a matter of taste or preference, but just one of the economic facts of life as that man saw it. It is encouraging that we have seen in recent months—certainly since I had this motion placed on the order paper and hoped it would eventually be reached for discussion—a re-awakening of Canadian interest in this matter. I think all hon. members received a very impressive publication from Mr. W. J. F. Kontak of St. Francis Xavier University, who has also written for maritime newspapers, on the result of his study on this part of the world. The Canadian Institute of International Affairs have issued a report of a most impressive study in this connection. A conference on commonwealth partners in the West Indies, sponsored by the institute and the University of New Brunswick was held last fall, in which participated prominent people from the West Indies islands. The study group of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs to meet in Charlottetown, as has been the case with all respectable national bodies this year, will take up the whole question of relations with the West Indies and the hemisphere generally. A week ago a most impressive group of people, the young Progressive Conservatives of Ontario, held a week end conference at McMaster University, where they brought together outstanding scholars, brilliant politicians and fine young people and discussed, among other things, Canada's relationship with this part of the world. If any hon. member of the house,

of any party, would be interested in receiving some of the very valuable reference papers produced at this conference, I should be glad to make arrangements for their distribution.

There has been a development too of what one might call an altruistic concern. We Canadians with all our material blessings seem to look altruistically at this small community whose economic and political viability is somewhat questionable. There are a few brave souls who suggest that it would behoove Canada to offer the outer seven provincial status. A very able professor from the University of Toronto—this shows my ecumenical nature as a McGill man to quote a Torontonians—David Gauthier not long ago wrote in the *Toronto Telegram* for February 26, 1964:

The Caribbean islands are poor, and several of them are becoming poorer. Their natural resources are severely limited. Their populations are expanding rapidly—

Perhaps it's time to do more—to do something radical. Let us offer to accept the smaller islands, which still remain British colonies, as our 11th province.

Confederation would automatically confer two benefits on the Caribbean. First, a Caribbean province would qualify for the same equalization grants, the same federal assistance programs, which now assist the poorer provinces of Canada.

Second, the inhabitants of the Caribbean would have the right to emigrate to other parts of Canada, thus alleviating the pressure of population in the islands.

Then he goes on to discuss, as a good professor should, some of the reasons which might mitigate against such a course, and he ends up in this way:

The most effective criticism we could make of the racial policies of South Africa, or of southern whites in America, would be to invite a Negro community to become Canadian—

On the other hand, perhaps we might best strengthen ourselves by turning our attention to others. We might achieve a true unity by unitedly assuming a new responsibility.

I am inclined to think that Professor Gauthier's suggestion will not be immediately seized upon, but I think we should expect something more to be done. I think we should congratulate the government for such steps as it has taken to renew our contacts with this area and to improve our assistance programs in respect to this part of our hemisphere.

When we discussed the question back in 1958 the statement of the present Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) on the matter was quoted by the mover of the resolution, and is to be found at page 2480 of *Hansard*, July 21, 1958: