

The Address—Mr. Bourdages

I and II and of Korea allowances and pensions large enough for their daily subsistence.

The unemployed needed generous assistance. The government gave them enough money to keep the wolf from the door. Their hopes were renewed and they soon found employment.

That is concrete evidence, Mr. Speaker. It is obvious that increased purchasing power in Canada largely contributed to the continuous flow of business and to the recovery of our economy.

Since 1957, the building program was intensified to provide our citizens with modern and comfortable homes at a price proportionate to their income. Thus, thanks to the steps taken by the federal government, half a million new houses were built in this country. The C.M.H.C. lent the sizeable amount of \$2 billion to various building contractors. According to forecasts, an equal number of new homes will be erected within the next four years.

The campaign for the sale of Canadian manufactured products led to an important increase in our export trade. According to the figures released by the dominion bureau of statistics at the close of 1961, our exports have exceeded our imports for the first time in 25 years. This policy had a most fortunate result, namely the balancing of our international trade.

Here is where the union of the vital forces of the Canadian nation is to be noted with pride. Private enterprise did not remain at a standstill. It gained strength. It was encouraged from all sides. Every industrialist, every businessman, big or small, received the same welcome, the same enthusiastic encouragement.

The Conservative government has always believed in the necessity of private enterprise, for private enterprise is the very essence of democracy. It gets its inspiration from work seriously accomplished, from a desire to improve one's lot. Why, indeed, is Canada the pride and joy of the United Nations? Because Canada is a free nation, a nation where one finds joy in thinking for one's self, where one may make his savings grow, where one may think of his children. A good father wishes to live on through his family. For his offspring, he not only wants welfare, he wants a life of well-being. For his children, he will build an industrial enterprise, a business enterprise. In short, he wants to enjoy to the fullest the pleasures of family life.

Canada, under the Conservative regime, is living its finest hours of freedom. There is

here a place in the sun for everybody. Each is entitled to live his own life, to have his own means of subsistence, even to enjoy luxuries. Private enterprise and the state are two great friends who, provided they keep on understanding and helping each other, will never see hovering above them the dark cloud of doubt and suspicion. For man is not made for the state; it is the state that is made for man. That is how the present government thinks and acts.

International trade is based on private enterprise. In Canada, it reveals impressive figures which reflect a great improvement.

On January 12, 1962, *Time* magazine had this to say:

Exports have increased by 7½ per cent to a record of 5.8 billion; and even if imports have gone up by 3 per cent, the value of imported products amounts to 5.7 billion.

These results substantiate the forecasts of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Hees), who, in a memorable gesture, sent all his salesmen abroad in order to find new and broader markets for our products. The experiment was conclusive. In common market countries, our sales went up by 16 per cent; in Japan, by 38 per cent; and in Asiatic countries, Canadian exports, having increased by 61 per cent, reached \$312 million for the first eight months of the year.

In eastern Europe, the increase is about 90 per cent; in Latin America, approximately 36 per cent. As for China, that country will accept delivery of 233.5 million bushels of wheat between the years 1961 and 1963.

In the Saturday, December 9, edition of the *Financial Post*, the following appeared:

(1) 1962 will be a year of prosperity and progress for the whole Canadian nation;

(2) business firms are expecting an increased turnover and much larger profits;

(3) those forecasts are the result of an elaborate survey made by experts in the fields of finance, economy and industry and thousands of businessmen were polled in every province of the country.

Here are, in short, the conclusions of the survey I have mentioned:

(a) At least 75 per cent of the Canadian companies expect a boost in the sale of their products; the remaining 25 per cent forecast about the same turnover as in 1961 which was already large; consequently, a widespread optimism prevails in the business world;

(b) The volume of export sales will be improved for almost all companies; this is the result of the sales campaign undertaken by the trade and commerce department, ably supported by all federal government departments;

(c) Corporation and individual profits will be considerably increased, in 60 per cent of cases; they will be similar to those of 1961 in 25 per cent of cases, and 15 per cent only of the people polled expected a slight decrease in profits;