

in our time, because back of it is the peace of the world, and all the rest of it. We feel that the blueprint is only going to be developed through the medium of careful discussion and weighing up by the best minds we have in the country, through the medium of across-the-table discussions, and probably eight hours a day to do it, in an endeavour to produce a white paper or an intelligent blueprint. Now, speaking as a businessman who also spent war years in the government, and as one who knows the calibre of our people in the public service, we in business have the highest possible regard for the deputies and our people in the public service.

We in business have got the highest possible regard for the deputies and other people in the public service. We submit that it would be valuable if some means could be found for the formation of a small working committee on an official basis. Perhaps some of the people who served in the war could come and give their full time to sitting down and studying something of the international problems and the international background and the diplomatic relationships. Such a committee could be guided accordingly and they could hammer out a plan that would have a practical application. They could be charged with the responsibility of bringing down, as they say in Britain, a white paper. In itself that might well represent a real contribution to the solution of the problem. We cannot profess to speak for the whole world but I do not think Canada needs to take second place at all in the terms of its leadership in thinking out economic and other problems. Canada is in a highly fortunate position in that regard. Another point is this. When the United Kingdom went on its big dollar drive the Canadian government formed a dollar advisory board to help the United Kingdom find ways to earn dollars. That was a laudable undertaking, and I am sure it helped Britain immeasurably. That board has presumably completed its work and has been dissolved. If this government saw fit to help the United Kingdom earn dollars here, by the same token is it not reasonable to suggest that it might form at least a little group of its own to deal with what is a far bigger problem for our country? That is the thinking behind that suggestion.

Hon. Mr. EULER: It would be a very fine thing if such a committee could arrive at what they think is a good suggestion for the solution of the problem, but it would still be a political problem to convince the governments of the merits of the suggestions the committee might make.

Mr. HENDERSON: Oh, absolutely, sir. After the paper is brought down it would then be taken on by the government on that basis.

Hon. Mr. EULER: It would be pretty difficult so far as the United States is concerned.

Hon. Mr. MACLENNAN: Mr. Chairman, did you say that there is another delegation here?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Hon. Mr. DUFFUS: I should like to ask Mr. Henderson a question. Are the numbers of Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce rapidly increasing in Canada?

Mr. HENDERSON: I should like to call upon Mr. Sheridan, our Secretary, to answer that inquiry. He is much more familiar with these figures than I am.

Hon. Mr. DUFFUS: And where is the Secretary from?

Mr. HENDERSON: Montreal.

Mr. SHERIDAN: Honourable Mr. Chairman and honourable senators, in answer to that question I should like to say that the great movement of the Canadian Chambers of Commerce in Canada started in 1944. At that time there were in Canada 150 Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce affiliated