

*The Address—Mr. Drew*

the Canadian government how it should mend its ways before they could do business with us.

Before we presume to tell the government of Britain how it should conduct its affairs, it would seem appropriate that our own position should be examined. Undoubtedly there are things to be done in Britain, and from what I have seen they do not hesitate to admit it. They know, as we know, that it is essential that they speed up the date of delivery of heavy machinery, that they live up to their commitments for delivery dates, that they maintain a larger supply of essential spare parts here in Canada than has been the practice in the past, and that other problems which have interfered with sales should be carefully examined and solved. In large measure those difficulties have been due to the reconstruction of damaged buildings and machinery in Britain, along with the necessity of transforming their industrial production, which has been almost entirely devoted to the needs of war, back to the requirements of peace. Sometimes there are those who seem to forget that no nation engaged in the last war had so completely transformed its industrial production to war purposes as Great Britain, and that does not except Germany. They had a tremendous task of transformation and then, before that transformation was completed, the armament brought about by events in Korea and elsewhere imposed further strains upon their system. There is evidence, and convincing evidence, that they are getting over the hump and that they will be able to tackle these problems satisfactorily.

Surely, Mr. Speaker, before we adopt any such holier-than-thou attitude, such as has been expressed in some statements recently appearing in the press, we should examine our own position. Let us remember that every cent of overtaxation or unnecessary taxation is added to the cost of the things that we produce or sell at home or abroad. Let us remember also that to the extent that there has been inflation in this country that inflation has affected the cost of our production in terms of the money with which it must be bought abroad. Let us also recognize that every cent of waste and extravagance is also added to the cost of our products. Thus, high taxation, extravagance, waste and inflation are not only a serious burden upon our own people, but they very greatly affect our ability to sell some of the things which we need to sell to maintain the prosperity of our farmers and some of our other basic producers.

We are told of our mounting exports in terms of dollars. At a time when the United States, Britain and other countries need so

much of our raw material for defence requirements, there has been no difficulty in selling those raw materials abroad. That is particularly true in the case of the United States, which has nearly exhausted many of its own supplies of raw material and must look abroad for the basic requirements of its industrial production in many cases.

Because of their stockpiling and other requirements, Britain has been buying increasing quantities in dollar value, but at the same time it has been necessary for them to stop buying food products for which they have been our stable market for generations.

In every part of Canada farmers are feeling the direct effect of the loss of our British market for bacon and other pork products. In every part of Canada our farmers are feeling the effect of the loss of our markets for beef products abroad. For the first time in considerably over 100 years we are selling no cheese to Britain, with serious consequence for our cheese industry in Canada. We are selling practically no poultry products, no milk products and no apples. We are, in fact, selling little of our surplus farm production to Britain except wheat and flour.

For some time we have been urging this government to take the initiative in calling a commonwealth conference to discuss this aspect of our trade. On occasion after occasion we have presented motions calling for the government to take the initiative in bringing together such a conference. The government has flatly refused to consider that suggestion. Now at this late date, when farmers all over Canada are feeling the impact of this loss of agricultural markets, representatives of the government are attending a conference not called at the initiative of Canada but called together by the government of Great Britain. That conference is going to be of vital importance to every Canadian but it is going to be of the utmost importance to the farmers and other food producers of this country.

Nor is it only the farmers who are concerned. For the first time in generations not a tin of Canadian salmon is being sold in Britain. Demands for our lumber are falling off. No matter what raw materials we may sell for defence or other requirements, that is not going to put money into the pockets of the Canadian farmer or other basic producer at this time who is feeling the pinch because of the loss of those markets.

Not long ago I went into a shop in London to buy a tin of salmon. The tin bore the name "Socra", which naturally immediately brought to one's mind the name "Sockeye", which is a great commercial salmon on the Pacific coast. That tin bearing the name