

simply awful to think that with a Conservative government in power our dollar is worth only 83 cents." Then I proceeded to add up two and two, to make five, or two and two to make six, as the case suited me, until the people began to realize that it was certainly bad to have in office a government that would allow our dollar to sink to such a low level. I mention that just in passing as a little attempt at humour, although I realize that as a humorist I am not at all in the class of my honourable friend from Montague (Hon. Mr. Grant). Today we are very happy to know that our dollar is practically at par with the American dollar, and that when we travel in the United States our currency is gladly accepted.

Hon. Mr. Quinn: But the buying power of the dollar is down to 56 cents.

Hon. Mr. Isnor: Now I come back to these totals in the report of the Canadian Commercial Corporation. The grand total amount of the orders placed in the whole of Canada from December 1, 1950, to January 13, 1951, was \$32,948,755—and again I wish to mention the proportion that was expended in the two central provinces; and I do this in no unkindly way. Of that total amount there was expended in Quebec \$14,487,392, and in Ontario \$15,129,972, or a total in the two central provinces of \$29,617,364. Simple subtraction shows that this left only \$3,331,391 to be expended in all the rest of Canada.

Perhaps it would be easier to see the picture if I gave percentages. Taking the \$32,948,755 as 100 per cent, we find that the value of the orders placed in Quebec was 43.78 per cent of the total, and in Ontario 45.81 per cent. In other words, the total for the two central provinces was 89.59 per cent, leaving for the rest of Canada only 10.19 per cent. In placing before you the picture of the distribution of contracts during that period, I address my remarks particularly to the leader of the government.

Honourable senators might well ask me if I have any constructive thoughts to offer. For what my views are worth, I wish to place them before the house. I believe that the Canadian Commercial Corporation should by now be so organized that it would be unnecessary to call for tenders from the different sections of Canada on a competitive basis, but that from its records and available information it should be able to place orders where the work is to be carried out or the material used, even to the extent of placing them on a cost-plus basis. Thus, instead of placing about 90 per cent of the orders in the two central provinces, there would be greater distribution of the benefits of production and decentralized defence purchases.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Isnor: If the honourable senator from New Westminster (Hon. Mr. Reid) wishes to ask any questions about the table I presented, I should be pleased to answer them.

Hon. Mr. Reid: Not now, thank you.

Hon. Mr. McIntyre: Would the honourable senator care to give some detail of the way in which these large expenditures were made? If we had such information we would have some idea as to whether the other provinces were in a position to receive orders and fill them. For instance, the Canadair factory, located near Montreal, produces jet planes. I wonder if the facilities are available in any other province for that type of manufacturing.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Airplanes are being manufactured near Halifax.

Hon. Mr. McIntyre: I wish the honourable senator from Halifax-Dartmouth (Hon. Mr. Isnor) would enlighten us as to what was procured for the expenditures of those millions of dollars.

Hon. Mr. Isnor: Needless to say, it would be impossible for me to go into detail on every item purchased by the Canadian Commercial Corporation. As honourable senators will recall, the corporation was set up for the purpose of placing contracts to meet the needs of the Department of National Defence.

For the information of the honourable senator from Mount Stewart (Hon. Mr. McIntyre) I wish to say that we have near Halifax one of the most modern aircraft industries in Canada, known as the Fairey (Canadian) Aviation Company, Limited. Its plant is perhaps not as large as the one to which the honourable gentleman has referred, but it does a very fine job. It is located outside of Halifax proper, across the harbour at Eastern Passage, where it is a blessing from an employment standpoint. Naturally, we in that community are anxious to see it expand and provide employment for not 500, as it now does, but 5,000.

Generally speaking, the expenditures to which I have referred cover every type of equipment used in connection with national defence.

Hon. Norman McL. Paterson: Honourable senators, may I ask the honourable senator who has just taken his seat whether it would not be a good idea to have one of the standing committees inquire into the question which he has raised, and which has been discussed a number of times? People frequently ask