

The Address—Mr. Gardiner

as all that, at least in my opinion. I was applying the remark to everyone making that statement.

This being the case it is not only foolish but untrue to state that Canada is losing her markets. A much truer statement would be that Canada cannot fully supply the markets available for staple food products.

One of the reasons for this is our own greatly increased purchasing power. Almost 50 per cent more of our wheat disappeared in Canada in the last five years than ever before. Wheat can be fed when livestock products are at present prices. We consumed 33 per cent more beef in the last five years than during the previous five and last year 50 per cent more than ten years ago. We consumed about 20 per cent more pork in the past five years than in the previous five, and about 70 per cent more than ten years ago. We are consuming more milk and milk products than ever before. As a matter of fact we are consuming nearly all we are producing.

It is true that we are having a little trouble cleaning up some war specialties such as linseed and berry pulp, but they too are disappearing. The only product we are having any real trouble with is apples. We have been having that trouble ever since the war started and partly because of the 1932 trade agreements. But the government has seen to it that the Canadian apple crop has been marketed at the highest returns to the grower he has ever experienced and there are none of those lying around in surplus. The storages are cleared for the new crop.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am sorry to have to inform the hon. minister that his time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Carry on; put it on the record.

Mr. Gardiner: There is only a little more of it. It reads as follows:

There is no part of our policy we can appeal upon with greater confidence than that upon trade. And there are no parties which should be more hesitant about raising an issue of finding markets than the Tories and C.C.F.'ers. The then leader of the Conservative party stated a few years before the war that: "Where there were markets thirty years ago there are none today. Where there were markets ten years ago there are none today." The then leader of the C.C.F. party agreed by saying that was the truest statement the leader of the Conservative party had ever made.

I read that statement a few moments ago.

The Social Crediters were maintaining that the only way to sell our products was to increase the purchasing power of our own people. The Conservatives were maintaining the only market was the home market. We have been in power ever since those statements were made. We got into power by stating there were markets and we would find them. We did not, however, lose sight of the fact that the home market could be improved. We had cut unemployment in half before the war started. We have seen to it that it has not returned. We have increased the purchasing power of the masses by taxing those able to pay and reducing taxes on those with lowest incomes, by increasing old age pensions, by making payments to returned men and by establishing family allowances. In addition to all this we have found and are finding a market for practically all farm products.

The Liberals have reason to be proud of the conversions they have made on the matter of trade.

The Tories now claim that the only solution for any possible problems of the future is foreign trade. The C.C.F.'ers are shouting that there is danger of our losing world markets. Both are stating that if we lose world markets we are in for all the calamities of depression including unemployment.

When the Liberal government took office we were being warned by both parties that there are no markets. We have succeeded in convincing them that trade is our only salvation. The record which convinced them is an impressive one.

Canada's annual average trade was \$2,250 million during the last four years of the first King government. It dropped to one-half that while the Bennett government was blasting its way into the markets of the world between 1931 and 1935. Canada's annual average trade increased by 60 per cent under the Liberals between 1936 and 1940. From 1941 to 1945 it increased by 245 per cent over 1936-40. But our opponents will say that was during war. We have not been at war during the years 1946 to 1948. The increase in trade has been greater than ever. The average annual figure is \$5,455 million which is 300 per cent over 1936-40, the last period of peace prior to the war, and five times as great as during the last period of Tory rule in Canada.

No wonder they have dropped their slogan "There are no markets" and substituted the Liberal slogan of 1935-40 and 1945, "Markets Bring Prosperity".

That prosperity is demonstrated in the fact that whereas there were only 3,700,000 gainfully employed persons in Canada in 1939, there were 5,031,000 in 1948 or an increase of one-third.

That prosperity is demonstrated in the fact that whereas the net income of farmers in 1939 was \$484 million it is over \$1,700 million in 1948. In short it is more than three times as high. That prosperity is demonstrated in the fact that our national income is three times as high in 1948 as in 1938.

Finally that prosperity is demonstrated in the fact that since 1945, or the last year of war, taxes have been reduced by approximately \$1,300 million and the public debt by \$1,600 million.

It is no wonder our opponents have come to the conclusion that the slogan of the Liberals "The Liberals Believe in Trade, Trade Brings Prosperity" is the only one upon which to appeal for support.

They admitted it, Mr. Speaker, and I repeat that the people of Canada believed that the only party to put back into power was the party that had always advocated trade as the road to prosperity and not recent converts, and that is why they voted as they did.

If we have converted the leaders of the opposition groups that only means that the mass of the people have been convinced. You know that those who proclaimed the idea 15 years ago and applied it so successfully throughout the period are best fitted now to continue the policy in operation.

The home market has improved to an unprecedented degree under the Liberals.

The export market gives us five times as much under the Liberals as under the last Tory government.

Markets bring business and trade; trade brings prosperity. Liberalism fosters business, trade and prosperity.

But the Liberal party does not intend to rest upon its laurels. It is fortunate for Canada that we have markets for our surpluses at home and abroad. It is fortunate for Canada that we have high national income. It is fortunate that we have practically no unemployment. But these must be maintained and improved upon.