

THE SENATE

Tuesday, December 16, 1947.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

TARIFFS AND TRADE

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE AT GENEVA —APPROVAL OF GENERAL AGREEMENT —REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. W. D. EULER, Chairman of the Committee on Canadian Trade Relations, presented and moved concurrence in the following report:

Tuesday, 16th December, 1947.

The Standing Committee on Canadian Trade Relations to whom was referred the subject matter of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, including the protocol of provisional application thereof, annexed to the Final Act of the second session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment held at Geneva from April 10 to October 30, 1947, together with the complementary agreements of October 30, 1947, between Canada and the United States of America and between Canada and the United Kingdom, beg to recommend that authority be granted for the printing of 1,000 copies in English and 200 copies in French of the evidence adduced before the committee on the said subject matter, and that rule 100 be suspended insofar as it relates to the said printing.

All which is respectfully submitted.

The motion was agreed to.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate resumed from Wednesday, December 10, the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's speech at the opening of the session and the motion of Hon. Mr. Ferland for an address in reply thereto.

Hon. R. B. HORNER: Honourable senators, this is one of the occasions when I ask the indulgence of the house and assert my right to speak. Some honourable senators have remarked that they do not know why they have come down here. I am particularly anxious to say a word or two now, because I know exactly why I came here. I wish to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the Address in Reply—particularly the seconder, the honourable senator from Medicine Hat (Hon. Mr. Gershaw). I think he could tell you why he came to Ottawa. I am sure that many farmers in the Medicine Hat district hurried him on his way; in fact, that they were very anxious that he should have something to say to this house at this time. I feel that the honourable senator from Medicine Hat employed very

moderate language indeed. He used the word "harmony." Had he been a different type of man he would have used the words "avoid a revolution" instead of the word "harmony" when referring to his part of the country. As I say, he was very moderate when he asked that something be done to permit some of our surplus cattle to cross over to the United States.

Honourable senators, I think perhaps I have the first right to speak in this chamber on agriculture and farming and stock raising. It may be that some honourable senators here are equally qualified, but ever since I was a young lad just the right height, standing up, to milk cows and to do a fair job of it, I have been interested in livestock.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Oh, oh.

Hon. Mr. HORNER: In referring to this industry, let me say that a real cattleman or stockman will lose money without a whimper in many ways; but when he loses money on livestock he finds it a very bitter pill to swallow. It is not exactly a question of money with him. It has been said that a good shepherd knows his flock. So does a good stockman; whether he has a hundred or a thousand, he knows each individual head of cattle. This may be an amazing thing to a person who does not understand livestock; but the cattleman knows the expression on the face of each individual animal, and he knows its line of breeding, because he has to choose among the cattle and take out the animals that are not making him money.

The farmers in most of Alberta have had sufficient feed, but in all that great area of the West comprising northern Saskatchewan and part of northern Alberta, where large numbers of cattle were being kept—for we can secure sufficient water there—the crop this year was almost a total failure. And at just about the time when there was a little bit of feed left and we could have marketed our cattle, the strike of packing-house workers began. I thought, as I am sure the honourable senator from Medicine Hat (Hon. Mr. Gershaw) thought, that some governmental action would be taken; but in the whole country the only government that did anything about the strike was the provincial government of Prince Edward Island, whose premier undertook to open the stockyards. For four or five weeks of the most important season the livestock producer was prohibited from selling his cattle. Farmers in the north had managed to secure a little feed, which they intended for their best animals, the ones they had set their hearts on as being the