

*The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker*

in order to meet some of the anomalies which have been found as a result of experience, the house will be given the opportunity to make amendments to the act and we will welcome suggestions from members in any part of the house, as we did when the act was set up, to the end that it may be made effective.

I am now going to sum up the question of trade in these words: That exports from Canada reached an all-time high in 1957, amounting to \$4,936 million compared with \$4,863 million in 1956; there were substantial increases in our exports to the United States and as far as imports are concerned I have already dealt with that subject. I have also dealt with the question of the trade deficit which was sharply reduced in 1957 when the over-all deficit fell from the figure of \$842 million in 1956 to \$687 million in 1957. There, in general, is the answer to the allegation of my hon. friend with respect to trade.

I want to say one other thing so far as agricultural exports are concerned. These were down in 1957 as compared with 1956. The amount of exports of Canadian agricultural products as a whole was \$909 million in 1957 compared with \$1,009 million in 1956, but that was an unusual year. As compared with 1955 the exports last year were very high for in 1955 the total agricultural exports amounted to \$801 million. I could go into the various products exported and the major increases which have taken place as the result of immediate action by this government but I do not intend to take any more time except to make one reference and that is to our general plan.

First we meet the problem of unemployment by again removing the difficulties inherent in the extension of the payments. Secondly, we increase trade and we have brought about an expansion of trade as the figures will show. Next, we launch our national development plan whereby in this country we will provide new opportunities for Canadians as a whole by the opening up of our northland. We remove some of the inequalities in the maritimes. My hon. friend said we did not do anything about the maritimes which they would not have done. Well, we got thanked, anyway. We have taken steps to equalize opportunity in every part of Canada.

We are making provision now, with the province of Saskatchewan as an example, for that development which over the years has been advocated by this party and by two of the hon. members of this house in particular, one of them the Minister for Northern Affairs (Mr. Hamilton) and the other the hon. member for Saskatoon (Mr. Jones): equalizing opportunity, providing jobs through

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

a public works program, the largest that has ever been launched in this country, and, having done that, extending our trade in every way possible, making available as a result of monetary action greater opportunities for expansion of trade and then, finally, initiating in this country a new concept of development.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition has ridiculed it, but the Canadian people see today something of what might happen within this country, with its vast resources. They know that there is a government in power which sees something of the potentialities of this wealth and which is prepared to provide an opportunity, not to nationalize our development under any socialistic plan never leading to national development, but by co-operation between the federal government and the provincial governments. This could also be done within the provinces, when the provinces are desirous of having it, and in those territories which it is our responsibility to develop, to multiply our resources to the fullest extent.

We saw something in the picture given yesterday by the hon. member for Yukon who knows whereof he speaks. He told of what has taken place up there and the significance of that leadership which has been given for development. That is just the beginning. This party has an appointment to carry out a development policy in Canada which will bring about the achievement of a prosperity and an expansion which was the vision of Macdonald in a policy which was followed by the opposition party whenever it was in power, of changing the direction from east to west to north.

That is our purpose. That is our intention. That is our plan, to make sure that the policy for Canada will be greater than ever before, with equal opportunities—a policy that will be positive rather than negative, active rather than passive. Our plan will bring about in this country a new unity—and there is that unity today—whereby in every province the people of this country see what can be achieved, even though that vision is not granted to the opposition.

**Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, my first words in this debate will be to congratulate you upon having been elected to the high office of Speaker. I do not think there is anything I can usefully add to what I said yesterday, except to assure you that you have the co-operation of the members of the C.C.F. group, and that I know you will also have the co-operation of members of all groups in the house in the exercise of your very important duties in the days to come.