

Supply—Trade and Commerce

In his remarks to us the minister told of his trip to Great Britain; that he found that Great Britain was fully recovered from the war; that business was humming along in high gear, and that there was a great advance in automation over there. He did not tell us that he saw any unemployment there. Hence we understand that every man in Great Britain is fully employed, that their industry is running along at a good clip, and that they are making all the goods they can possibly make. They have no surplus of goods at all. They have a backlog of orders at all times over there waiting to be filled.

To ask them to increase their shipments to Canada is one thing, but there must be some reason why they are not doing that now of their own accord. I would suggest that maybe the reason is that they have markets where competition is not as keen as it is in Canada, and that they are selling more beneficially as far as they are concerned possibly in some sterling areas. I suggest that this is the main reason they are not shipping more to us at the present time. They just have not the productive capacity to handle the extra trade that our Prime Minister suggests.

This is something that should be obvious even to the man in the street. Certainly it will be obvious to the man in the street in Great Britain that they are producing to the utmost at the present time. When somebody offers them \$600 million more of a market, while it sounds very good, maybe they have not the goods with which to supply that market. In order to supply it they would be obliged to take trade away from some other areas where, as I said, they are already doing business on a very satisfactory basis and against less competition than we have in this country.

I think I have fairly well covered what I intended to cover, but I should like to make these further observations with regard to the minister's opening remarks yesterday. He indicated that we are suffering from a down trend in some of our trade which includes lumber, copper and aircraft, and that we have an adverse trade balance with the United States as compared with last year of \$100 million. Our exports to Great Britain are down \$55 million.

Before concluding I should like to ask him this question. If, as he says, he wants to assist Great Britain to gain more markets here in Canada, something which I think there is some doubt that he will be able to do for the reasons I have just given, does this mean a lowering of the tariffs against Great Britain?

[Mr. Harrison.]

I might say also that we are very much interested in uranium. I wonder what he has in mind as a forecast for the uranium industry. I know that in Great Britain it has been indicated that uranium is going to be a considerable import, as far as they are concerned, for the next generation. I wonder whether he would indicate, when he replies, just what the position of uranium is going to be, having regard to our world exports.

Mr. Montgomery: I had no intention of taking part in this debate on this item, Mr. Chairman, and I do not propose to take very long. But having listened to some of the remarks of hon. members, may I say that it sounded as though there was a great deal of frustration among many of the members who were speaking, or else they were trying to make political capital out of something at this stage which might or might not be justified.

There is another reason that I should like to say a word, and it is this. I should like to congratulate my long-time personal friend the minister and compliment him on the efforts he has been making in his new office in the short time he has occupied it. The Department of Trade and Commerce for which he is responsible is a very difficult one to administer, I am sure, and one at which the people all over Canada are looking. A great many people are ready to criticize him. A great many expect him to pull rabbits out of a hat. But having roomed with him, lived with him for a while and worked with him, I want to say that I do not know of a more sincere and honest man or a better one to be in charge of this department. I wish him all success. He is not going to have an easy road. Even from listening to the speeches made this morning I suspect it is not going to be made any easier by a great many members of this house.

I pick up a newspaper, and I should like to refer to it because it reflects my own feelings. This was written by George Bain and it is printed in the *Toronto Globe and Mail* of December 4. Many of the members of this trade mission did not know the minister before they started on their mission. This is what Mr. Bain says:

To most of the businessmen in this group, the minister beforehand was largely unknown. The opinions they have formed of him in the time they have been here have been unanimously good. They like the quiet way in which he has been putting across the purposes of the mission. Mr. Churchill falls somewhat short of being a spell-binding orator, but his hosts in this country—

—referring to the old country—

—have been impressed, and they have said so, with the good sense, sincerity and friendly good humour of his speeches.